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Palestinian Affairs

Sha'th Interviewed on 'Arafat's Arrival in Rafah

JN3006164894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1448 GMT 30 Jun 94

[Interview with Dr. Nabil Sha'th, member of the Palestinian National Authority, by Sa'id Mu'addi on 30 June; place not given; from "With the Events" program—recorded]

[Text] [Mu'addi] Dr. Nabil Sha'th: There is confusion and conflicting reports about the time of arrival [in the self-rule area] of Yasir 'Arafat, the man of surprises. It would be appreciated if you give the listeners, and for the last time, the exact time of 'Arafat's arrival.

[Sha'th] The exact time for the arrival of brother Yasir 'Arafat, Abu-'Ammar, is 1430 [1130 GMT] at the Rafah crossing point. Naturally, God only knows the time needed for 'Arafat to travel between the Rafah crossing point and the city of Gaza. However, 'Arafat will arrive at the Rafah crossing point at 1430 tomorrow, Friday, God willing.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Nabil: What is the program prepared for Yasir 'Arafat, and will he pay a visit to the Jericho area?

[Sha'th] We cannot announce the schedule in detail now. 'Arafat will naturally stay in Gaza. However, if he plans a visit to Jericho, he will visit it and return [to Gaza] on the same day. The brothers wishing to meet with brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] can come [to Gaza] on Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday in succession. No doubt, he will be pleased to meet with them.

[Mu'addi] Have the special arrangements been finalized with the Egyptian and Israeli authorities on the eve of 'Arafat's arrival?

[Sha'th] Yes, yes. In fact, President Mubarak will both welcome and bid farewell to 'Arafat. An official and popular Egyptian farewell ceremony will be held for 'Arafat when he leaves for Rafah. No doubt, the arrangements to receive 'Arafat [in Gaza] are under way, and all Palestinian officials are making preparations for this. I know that all citizens in the Gaza Strip are preparing to receive 'Arafat.

[Mu'addi] Will a visit to the holy al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem be part of Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Gaza and Jericho?

[Sha'th] Not this time. No doubt, 'Arafat is eager to pay such a visit. We all are eager to visit Jerusalem. However, this needs preparations, and there is not sufficient time for this visit now.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Nabil: Why will the visit take place earlier than scheduled, knowing that it was scheduled for Saturday?

[Sha'th] Earlier, I said Friday. However, some questions were posed about whether there was enough time for the preparations. I later said: Either on Friday evening or on Saturday morning at the latest. We, however, managed to remove the obstacles, so 'Arafat will pay the visit on the date I mentioned yesterday. In other words, 'Arafat's visit will be on Friday.

[Mu'addi] Will Yasir 'Arafat be accompanied by anyone on this visit?

[Sha'th] There is no doubt about it.

[Mu'addi] Are they from the PLO leadership?

[Sha'th] Of course. 'Arafat will be accompanied by a number of brothers, including Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, 'Abdallah al-Ifranji, and Dr. Zakariya al-Agha—the latter will escort 'Arafat to Gaza—as well as myself of course, Marwan Kanafani, al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, and others.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Nabil: Yasir 'Arafat is the head of the Palestinian Authority. So, why this surprise visit, rather than a permanent stay?

[Sha'th] 'Arafat will eventually stay permanently. However, this time he will come but later he has to leave for Paris. It was agreed that 'Arafat will receive an award from the UNESCO in Paris. 'Arafat's future meeting with Prime Minister Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres is a planned meeting. As a result, the official Tunisian farewell ceremony was postponed until 'Arafat returns from Paris.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Nabil: Have contacts been made on a possible visit by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak to the self-rule area?

[Sha'th] No doubt, President Husni Mubarak is invited and welcomed on the Palestinian popular and official levels. However, a date for such a visit has not yet been set.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, thank you very much.

[Sha'th] Thank you, brother.

Senior PLO Leaders Said Not To Accompany 'Arafat

NC3006211594 Paris AFP in English 2035 GMT 30 Jun 94

[Excerpts] Tunis, June 30 (AFP)—PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat will not be accompanied by senior PLO leaders based at the organisation's Tunis headquarters when he travels to the Gaza Strip Friday [1 July], Palestinian officials said here Thursday.

One official who requested anonymity told AFP 'Arafat would only have a few aides and bodyguards with him on the plane leaving Tunis for Egypt late Thursday.

'Arafat's wife Suha would not make the historic trip either, the officials said.

It will be the PLO leader's first visit to Gaza for 27 years.

Influential members of the PLO executive committee, including Mahmud 'Abbas and Faruq Qaddumi, as well as members of the Palestinian Authority, had chosen not to go on the trip because the timing of it took them by surprise, the sources said.

They said Qaddumi, who heads the PLO's political department, and Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, culture minister in the new Palestinian Authority, only learnt of 'Arafat's trip when he announced it Wednesday at a meeting with Tunisian President Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali.

Earlier a Palestine Liberation Organisation spokesman said 'Arafat would chair a meeting of the Palestinian Authority during his visit. [passage omitted] Two senior PLO officials in Tunis said Thursday 'Arafat could leave "definitively" for the autonomous territories on July 9, or even immediately after he returned from Paris, which he will visit on July 6.

'Arafat is due to receive a peace prize in Paris with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

PLO Sources Detail 'Arafat Agenda in Gaza

LD3006223894 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 30 Jun 94

[Excerpts] Preparations are under way for President 'Arafat's arrival in Gaza and Jericho.

Sources of the Palestinian leadership in Tunis confirmed 'Arafat is to arrive in Gaza tomorrow, 1 July, after it had been reported that this visit would be either on Friday afternoon or Saturday [2 July] morning. [passage omitted]

It was noted from Palestinian sources in Tunis that, during his visit, President 'Arafat will chair a meeting of the members of the Palestinian national authority in Gaza. Palestinian circles noted that 'Arafat will arrive in the Egyptian al-'Arish airport by plane and will then drive by car 80 km before arriving at the border post in Rafah. He will continue his journey by car after entering the Gaza strip to Gaza city under the escort of the Palestinian police force. He will be under Israeli protection for the first time during his return journey between Gaza and Jericho as he will have to cross Israeli territory either by road or by air aboard a helicopter.

Gaza Security Chief on Plans for 'Arafat Reception

JN3006162494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1452 GMT 30 Jun 94

[From the "With the Events" feature]

[Text] Staff Major General 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Majayidah, National Security commander in the Gaza Strip, has said that Palestinian teams will be in charge of guarding 'Arafat when he arrives at the Rafah border crossing. He said that 'Arafat will deliver a speech before the audience and those who will be there to welcome him on his arrival in the Gaza Strip.

Our correspondent Hasan Abu-Zayid provides details on the preparations for 'Arafat's visit tomorrow, Friday:

[Begin recording] [Abu-Zayid] Staff Maj. Gen. 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Majayidah held a news conference in the Gaza Strip this afternoon. At this news conference, he discussed the arrangements made for the visit of PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to the Gaza Strip. Staff. Maj. Gen. 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Majayidah said that Yasir 'Arafat will arrive in the Gaza Strip via the Rafah border crossing, and then proceed to Rafah.

[Al-Majayidah] The Public Security Department in the Gaza Strip has made all the necessary security arrangements for this visit. A reception committee comprising ranking officers will be posted at the Rafah border crossing. Another committee assigned the task of organizing the reception of his excellency the president comprising the ministers, senior visitors, mayors, and prominent figures will receive his excellency the president immediately after he leaves the border crossing. Afterward, his excellency the president will review the honor guard, and proceed in a motorcade crossing the highway between Rafah and Gaza. The motorcade will stop at the gates of Gaza, at the beginning of the 30-meter-wide road in Gaza, and then proceed to the Legislative Council, where his excellency the president will meet with the people and his fellow Palestinians. All the necessary security arrangements for the motorcade have been made from the start of the highway until its end by regional commanders and the security organs of the Public Security Department.

[Abu-Zayid] 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Majayidah urged the residents of the Gaza Strip not to carry arms on the street, not to fire in expression of happiness, and to behave in a manner that befits the occasion.

[Al-Majayidah] I would like to urge all fellow Palestinians not to carry arms outside their homes at all to keep the peace and show our people inside the homeland as a civilized community. Once again, I would like to caution that the people should not carry arms outside their homes for any reason whatsoever, and that they should not fire shots from their houses in order to keep the peace, and so that we may project a fitting image on this historic occasion, which will bring together foreigners, people from all parts of the world. It is necessary that we project a civilized image during the visit. [end recording]

Preparations Along 'Arafat Return Route Described

NC3006162594 Paris AFP in English 1556 GMT 30 Jun 94

[Text] Khan Yunus, Gaza Strip, June 30 (AFP)—Hundreds of Palestinian policemen began to deploy

along the road PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat is expected to take for a triumphant entry Friday [1 July] into the Gaza Strip, a correspondent reported.

Armed with Kalashnikov assault rifles, the men in olive green uniforms disgorged from trucks and four-wheel drive vehicles.

They took up positions at crossroads and on rooftops along the road north to Gaza City from the Rafah border post, where 'Arafat is due to cross from Egypt.

Bulldozers were busy clearing the roadsides along the 40-odd kilometre (25 mile) dual carriageway.

The towns and villages through which 'Arafat's motorcade will pass were decked out in the green, red, white and black colours of the Palestinians, as well as posters of the PLO chairman.

"We are preparing for president 'Arafat's arrival," said one officer. A guard of honour is planned at Rafah to welcome the PLO leader.

Khan Yunus, 'Arafat's home town, was buzzing with activity as the people of the town and refugee camp readied for the great day.

"We have been working for 20 hours straight with the town hall employees to clean up," said police captain Riyad al-Qassah.

He said he had no doubt that 'Arafat would want to pay an immediate visit to the tomb of his father at Khan Yunus, the family's home town.

No Israeli security forces were to be seen along the route.

However, near the main block of Jewish settlements called Gush Katif settlers were hanging out blue and white Israeli flags, which could be seen from the road.

National Security Forces Arrive at al-'Arish Airport

NC3006193894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1920 GMT 30 Jun 94

[Text] Rafah, 30 Jun (MENA)—Eighty-six members from among the leaders and cadres of the Palestinian national security forces arrived in al-'Arish airport today coming from Tunis on their way to the Gaza Strip.

Major General Fakhri 'Umran, commander of the security forces in Rafah, who was there to receive the Palestinian cadres, stated that the PLO cadres are expected to return from Tunis to the self-rule areas gradually and in stages. They will top the delegation accompanying Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat during his entry to the Gaza Strip.

Gaza City Mayor on 'Arafat Visit Agenda

NC3006192594 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1750 GMT 30 Jun 94

[Telephone interview with Gaza City Mayor Dr. Zakariya Makki, in Gaza City, by Muhammad 'Abd-al-Shafi, in Cairo, on 30 June—recorded]

[Text] ['Abd-al-Shafi] Dr. Zakariya Makki, the eyes of the whole world are turned now toward Gaza to see the great event of Mr. 'Arafat's visit and the beginning of the return journey to the Palestinian homeland to visit the autonomy areas in Gaza and Jericho. How have you prepared yourselves for this event, officially and popularly?

[Makki] There are extensive preparations in Gaza City to welcome leader Yasir 'Arafat. There is, of course, great joy among the citizens to meet this man who has struggled a great deal for the sake of the Palestine question. Many citizens are decorating the walls of houses. There are banners in the streets welcoming the president. Everyone is making a 24-hour effort to make the areas President Yasir 'Arafat will be passing through display signs of joy, happiness, and love for this man who has sacrificed a great deal for Palestine and its people.

['Abd-al-Shafi] Dr. Zakariya, the dream of return is a dream that every Palestinian has striven for. What are your emotions at this time?

[Makki] As a Palestinian people, we have very big ambitions. Today, there are practical and actual steps being implemented, including Brother Yasir 'Arafat's visit to the Gaza Strip and Gaza City. These are practical steps that give the Palestinian people the feeling that their dreams to establish this democratic and ancient Palestinian state for which they have struggled for over 70 years are beginning to be realized today. This state is becoming a reality and coming to the surface. The Palestinian people are emerging among all other nations of the world as a struggling nation that has fought for what it got. We hope this is the beginning and brother Yasir 'Arafat's visit the preface for establishing this Palestinian state over which our Palestinian flag flutters. We have sacrificed a great deal and I believe that our people deserve that.

['Abd-al-Shafi] What is the timetable of 'Arafat's visits to Gaza and Jericho?

[Makki] Regarding Gaza, I know that there will be a reception. There will be a special route for his motorcade. He will pass through the southern part of Gaza City, and then to the al-Umdan, the 'Asqulah, al-Thalathini Street via al-Sada area, and then finally to the Legislative Council building. He will be given a reception at the Unknown Soldier's Square by tens, indeed hundreds of thousands of citizens. His excellency will

stand on a podium specially constructed at the Legislative Council building in front of the Unknown Soldier's monument to speak to the masses.

['Abd-al-Shafi] Dr. Makki, President Muhammad Husni Mubarak will receive Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat. The meeting will come in the context of the close Egyptian-Palestinian relations and Egypt's support for the Palestinian cause. What do you think of this meeting and the Egyptian role at this stage?

[Makki] Egypt is the Arab big sister and its pioneering, generous people have never hesitated to do all they could for the Palestinian cause. This is another contribution by His Excellency President Husni Mubarak to the Palestinian people. I believe he is performing a big duty toward a fraternal, friendly, dear nation.

['Abd-al-Shafi] Dr. Makki, since the beginning of autonomy in Gaza and Jericho, you must have faced numerous problems. You probably have overcome certain obstacles and are waiting to overcome others in the future. What can you tell us about this matter?

[Makki] The Israeli occupiers left the infrastructure, buildings, and facilities in the Gaza Strip and Jericho in a state of devastation. There were water and electricity shortages, no proper sewage systems, and a polluted environment. They also left a large financial deficit. Since the departure of the Israeli occupiers, we have been working with the Palestinian Authority to get through this difficult stage. We appeal to the Arab world, Europe, the United States, and Japan to extend support to this great people at this critical time, which is also a time of joy, until they can establish a Palestinian state. We believe that the countdown for this state has begun.

['Abd-al-Shafi] Jericho Mayor Dr. Zakariya Makki, thank you very much.

[Makki] Don't mention it. I send my greetings to all our Egyptian brothers, notably His Excellency President Husni Mubarak.

Further on Gaza Mayor's Remarks

NC0107063294 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 1 Jul 94

[Telephone interview with Gaza Mayor Dr. Zakariya Makki by Fayiz al-Miliji in Cairo; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Miliji] Good morning, Dr. Makki. We welcome you.

[Makki] I greet you and all the brother listeners of the Voice of the Arabs.

[Al-Miliji] Let us discuss the very important preparations under way in the Gaza Strip to receive the Palestinian leader.

[Makki] There are major preparations to receive Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat. Palestinian flags, flowers, and welcoming posters have been put along the route the great leader will take. According to my information, 'Arafat will take the route south of Gaza City, passing through the al-'Umdan, 'Asqulah, al-Zaytun, and al-Sabra areas. Afterward 'Arafat will be received at the Legislative Council building, from the balcony of which he will address the massed Palestinians. It will be a historic speech, the first such event in Gaza City. Gaza City is making major preparations for this unique event.

[Al-Miliji] What is the significance of 'Arafat's stopover in Cairo before he goes to Gaza?

[Makki] Naturally there is complete coordination between the Egyptian and Palestinian leaders, Mubarak and 'Arafat. Of course they have identical views on how to handle current events at this unique time and during this transitional period that presages the establishment of a Palestinian state.

[Al-Miliji] Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has welcomed the Palestinian president's visit and at the same time said that he could visit Jerusalem providing this is coordinated with Israel. What is your comment on this?

[Makki] We believe there should be coordination; it will be on a temporary basis. This is because self-rule is only a step on the road and talks on Jerusalem and the other areas have not yet begun. We hope they will be held soon. I believe that a trip by president 'Arafat to Jerusalem requires coordination with the Israelis, because Jerusalem is not part of the agreement and will be discussed later. Thus coordination with the Israelis is needed.

[Al-Miliji] Palestinian president 'Arafat has linked his trip to the self-rule areas with the flow of international aid to these areas. Does 'Arafat's arrival in Gaza mean the aid has already reached the self-rule areas?

[Makki] We in Gaza have repeatedly stressed—we continue to do so—to the donor states that the occupied territories are in urgent need of aid—and fast—particularly for Gaza and the West Bank. We need a new infrastructure. President 'Arafat has every right to protest and to show the world, which has backed the agreement, that the Palestinians are entitled to aid the same as the Israelis received enormous aid in return for this agreement. The agreement opened every door before Israel, be it the Vatican's or the Arab world's. We say the world is now required to stand alongside the Palestinian people and leader 'Arafat in their demands. I really do not know what the latest news is in this regard. Naturally 'Arafat has the right to object, because this is a major issue that requires prompt action; the Palestinian people in Gaza cannot wait for long-term aid.

[Al-Miliji] But president 'Arafat has tied his arrival in Gaza and Jericho to the arrival of aid. Today he is heading for Gaza. Doesn't that mean the aid is on the way ...

[Makki, interrupting] It could mean that aid has started to arrive, which is a good thing, promising that Gaza, God willing, will progress and prosper. This is because the economic conditions in Gaza are bitter and difficult. Despite the difficulties, the morale among the Palestinians is very high and they have strong faith in their leadership. I believe that when President 'Arafat arrives in Gaza he will be warmly welcomed by the Palestinian people, who are faithful to their cause.

[Al-Miliji] To conclude, let me ask you about security in Gaza now that the Palestinian police are in charge. The Israelis themselves have commended the Palestinian police work, have they not?

[Makki] The Palestinian police undoubtedly represent a civilized, modern, and advanced police force. We meet frequently with many of our brothers in the police and find them to be highly intelligent, cultured, and militarily trained people. This augurs well. I believe the police are a representative segment of the Palestinian people, who are known to be among the most advanced people in the Middle East.

[Al-Miliji] Gaza Mayor Dr. Zakariya Makki, thank you and welcome to the Voice of the Arabs.

[Makki] You are welcome. Greetings to all the brothers at the Voice of the Arabs and in Egypt. We hope we will always meet on good occasions for our Arab and Palestinian peoples.

Breakaway Fatah Man Urges Suicide Strikes on 'Arafat

NC0107120594 Paris AFP in English 1049 GMT 1 Jul 94

[Text] 'Ayn al-Hulwah, Lebanon, July 1 (AFP)—A breakaway Fatah official urged Palestinian militants to launch suicide attacks to kill Yasir 'Arafat, as the PLO leader travelled to Gaza Friday [1 July] after 27 years in exile.

"Every Palestinian who respects himself should blow himself up and kill 'Arafat because his death will mean the end of the Zionist scheme," Munir Maqdah told AFP in Lebanon's largest Palestinian refugee camp, 'Ayn al-Hulwah.

"There are people who have volunteered to kill him in Palestine and 'Arafat is aware of that," Maqdah said.

Maqdah, who is opposed to the May 4 PLO-Israel accord launching Palestinian autonomy in the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho, predicted that 'Arafat "may never come out (alive) of Gaza."

He said Israel had mobilised its troops to protect "a man who has offered the Jewish state much more than anyone else" by agreeing to the autonomy accord.

Maqdah played down the importance of 'Arafat's visit to Gaza.

"It is a visit by an ordinary man. He is not going there as a conqueror but as a defeated man."

He also expected the visit to lead to inter-Palestinian fighting.

The PLO chief brushed off death threats as "not the first and not the last" during a brief stopover in Cairo on his way to the Rafah crossing point into Gaza.

"I'm returning to the first free part of Palestine. You have to imagine how this is moving my head and my heart," 'Arafat said.

'Arafat Return 'With Israeli Permission' Hit

NC0107115594 Paris AFP in English 0936 GMT 1 Jul 94

[Text] Damascus, July 1 (AFP)—The Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas said Friday [1 July] PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat's return to the autonomous Gaza Strip was "sad and painful."

Hamas representative in Damascus Abu-Muhammad Mustafa told AFP 'Arafat's trip to Gaza, his first for 27 years, was "sad and painful because he is making it with Israeli permission and under Israeli protection."

'Arafat arrived in Cairo from the PLO's Tunis headquarters Friday, and was due to enter the Gaza Strip via the Rafah border crossing after meeting Egyptian President Husni Mubarak.

"This is not the return the Palestinian people have been dreaming of. They have been awaiting the return of a revolutionary and conqueror, not one which is governed by concessions," Mustafa said.

Meanwhile, a spokesman for another Islamic fundamentalist group, Islamic Jihad, said the Palestinian people were "astonished and condemn this visit, which is being carried out under the protection of Israeli bayonets."

The spokesman said: " 'Arafat, who was the symbol of Palestinian resistance, is now forced to show his official authorisation to the Zionist (Israeli) government so that he can visit Gaza."

"We shall continue resisting the Israeli occupation by armed struggle," he added.

Islamic Jihad Friday claimed responsibility for an ambush of two Israeli soldiers in the Gaza Strip.

They were lightly wounded Thursday when they were attacked in a jeep near the Kissufim crossing point into the south of the Gaza Strip, the army said.

Islamic Jihad warned that "our weapons will remain trained on the enemy which occupies Jerusalem."

"Israeli soldiers wherever they may be will remain the target of our fighters."

Both Hamas and Islamic Jihad rejected the PLO's deal with Israel launching Palestinian self-rule in the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

'Arafat Orders Cadres To End Operations Abroad

NC3006150794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1325 GMT 30 Jun 94

[Text] Tunis, 30 Jun (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has issued strict orders on terminating the Palestinian presence abroad, particularly with regard to PLO cadres whose entry to Gaza and Jericho Israel has been approved. According to his orders, this should be done before the end of July at the latest.

Sources from his leadership in the Palestinian Fatah movement made this statement and said that the first groups of the 600 or so employees of the Palestinian civil administrators will travel to the self-rule areas during July in groups.

These sources added that these cadres will be vanguards to establish headquarters in Gaza and Jericho and set up offices for the PLO which will operate along the lines of the ones abroad.

Fatah sources said that the Palestinian police force are trying very hard to find headquarters for the Palestinian self-rule authority in Gaza and Jericho, but are suffering from the hike in real estate prices in the self-rule areas due to the great shortage of buildings.

The sources added that 'Arafat issued his instructions to private contracting companies and the Palestinian Contractors Union to start building new installations which can accommodate the various offices and departments of the PLO's headquarters.

Jericho Police Chief on Detainees, Israeli Obstacles

NC3006152594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1235 GMT 30 Jun 94

[Text] Jericho, 30 Jun (MENA)—Hajj Isma'il Jabr, commander of the Palestinian National Security Forces in the Jericho area, has announced that Palestinian national unity is the most important component of the peace struggle that the Palestinian people are waging.

He pointed out that some Israelis and people in other circles had wagered that the Palestinian front would not remain solid throughout this political phase and that it would erupt from inside immediately after the Palestinian forces entered the National Authority areas in Gaza and Jericho.

In an interview with MENA, Jabr said that he has nothing but respect for any real Palestinian opposition that seeks the good of the homeland and its citizens. He explained that democratic methods have been used and the opposition has been left free to express its views and when opposition forces asked for a permit to demonstrate inside Jericho they were granted this permit and all means of success were made available to them.

Hajj Isma'il said: We emphatically refuse to receive any liberated detainees in Jericho and Gaza. They must be allowed to return to their homes immediately upon their release, as provided for by our agreement with the Israelis.

Isma'il pointed out that by sending a large number of liberated prisoners to the Jericho areas, the Israelis have sought to turn it into a large exile facility to create problems and impediments that can undermine the Palestinian citizens' security in the areas under the control of the Palestinian National Authority.

The commander of the National Security Forces in Jericho explained that the Israelis have played a dangerous role in this affair and have tried to drive a wedge among the various groups by releasing some Fatah detainees but keeping the followers of other Palestinian factions in jail and releasing male detainees while keeping female prisoners. He said this created a negative impression.

Isma'il said that the Palestinians have declared that this Israeli deceptiveness is unacceptable and insisted that every freed prisoner be seen as part of the Palestinian nation, not as part of a mere faction.

Hajj Isma'il Jabr said that the Palestinians are running into technical difficulties, caused by Israeli bureaucracy, when it comes to implementing the Palestinian-Israeli Agreement.

He added that Israel is trying to hinder the entrance of Palestinians coming from various West Bank towns to Jericho and Gaza in order to create the impression that the National Authority in Jericho is unable to provide security for the Palestinians wishing to visit the town. As an example of this attitude, he referred to Israel's attempt to obstruct Minister of Planning and International Cooperation Nabil Sha'th's visit to the King Husayn "Allenby" Bridge.

Isma'il added that settlers and other Israelis carry weapons when they visit the Jericho synagogue, which is a provocative act and a violation of the agreement. He also said that Israeli military vehicles travel along Route 90 which crosses Jericho in a north- south direction in a provocative manner.

In conclusion, the Palestinian official said that all security arrangements have been made for Yasir 'Arafat's reception and for the guests who are expected to arrive in Jericho in the next few days.

Two IDF Soldiers Injured by Shots Near Khan Yunus

TA3006165694 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1636 GMT 30 Jun 94

[Report by military correspondent Yariv Ben-Yehuda]

[Text] A shooting incident took place at around 1600 GMT this afternoon in the Gaza Strip. Shots were fired at an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] car traveling on the Kissufim road, northeast of Khan Yunus. Two soldiers were injured by the fire; one of them sustained moderate wounds and the other was lightly injured. The moderately wounded soldier was taken to hospital, and the other is being treated on the spot.

According to initial reports, the terrorists fired their guns from two moving vehicles. Large Army forces are on the site and are searching for the perpetrators of the attack.

Islamic Jihad Claims Attack

TA0107050594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 1 Jul 94

[Excerpts] In the Gaza Strip, two IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers were shot and wounded north of Khan Yunus last night. [passage omitted]

The Islamic Jihad has claimed responsibility. The commander of the Palestinian police, General Nasr Yusuf, has condemned the shooting. He said his men will pursue the attackers and show them that there is only one rule in the Gaza Strip.

The soldiers, a reservist and an active duty soldier, suffered slight to moderate injuries.

Algeria

Sifi on Conditions for Dialogue With FIS

LD3006132994 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 30 Jun 94

[Text] Among current political efforts, Mokdad Sifi, head of government, has affirmed once again in an exclusive interview with AL-ANWAR that political dialogue is open to everyone who rejects violence and respects the law. We go over to Mahfoud:

[Mahfoud] The head of government pointed out in this interview that dialogue was never planned at any time to be with the extremists, but is open for all Algerians who respect the laws, and this is one of the fundamental conditions for holding it.

The head of government affirmed here that the dialogue takes into account social and political problems as well as the return to the ballot box at the earliest time within the framework of the transitional period.

Concerning the possibility of holding a dialogue with the dissolved Islamic Salvation Front [FIS], Sifi said that the FIS is banned as a front at present, but if there are bodies or structures belonging to it which are not implicated in violence and which publicly state that they are against violence and respect the law, then the state will welcome holding a dialogue with them without any reservations or preconditions. The head of government went on to say: How can we hold a dialogue with a side that does not exist politically or on the ground?

Concerning the U.S. stance on the situation in Algeria, the head of government said that the U.S. President was sufficiently clear when he called for a halt to sedition and an expansion to the dialogue base, and we are working in this direction and attempting to end the violence completely and expand the base of the interlocutors.

Assessing the situation five months after President Liamine Zeroual took over as president, Sifi said that there is control over the situation, on the one hand, and progress in the dialogue, on the other. He added that control over the situation today is better that it was in the past.

Ma[illegible] Dies of Wounds From Bomb Blast

LD3006130494 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 30 Jun 94

[Text] The security services said that one of the two seriously wounded people in one of the explosions which took place during the march of the Movement for the Republic has died as a result of his wounds in the hospital yesterday. The matter concerns Chaban Rabeh, 43 years old.

The two explosions left a number of wounded people, most of whom have left the hospital.

Two Protocols Signed With Vietnamese Delegation

LD3006160294 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 30 Jun 94

[Excerpt] The proceedings of the mixed Algerian-Vietnamese committee have today been crowned by the signing of two protocol agreements.

The first protocol agreement was signed by Mohamed Hannache, secretary-general of the foreign affairs ministry, for the Algerian side, and the Vietnamese ambassador to Algeria, for the Vietnamese side. It is a consular agreement for strengthening human cooperation between the two countries.

As for the mixed committee's minutes, which outline the prospects of cooperation between the two countries, they were signed in the presence of the two countries' delegations by Yahia Kaidoum, health and population minister, and Ngo Xuan Loc, Vietnamese minister of construction, for the Vietnamese side. [passage omitted]

Egypt

'Arafat Confers With Mubarak, Heads for Gaza

'Arafat Arrives in Cairo

NC0107081494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0810 GMT 1 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 1 Jul (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Cairo this morning.

Holds 'Private' Talks With Mubarak

NC0107085694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0840 GMT 1 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 1 Jul (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak today received Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat at the Presidential Office in Heliopolis. The two leaders held a private round of talks.

Joins Mubarak at News Conference

NC0107100494 Cairo ESC Television in Arabic 0838 GMT 1 Jul 94

[News conference by President Husni Mubarak and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat with unidentified correspondents in the Presidential Palace in Heliopolis, Cairo—live]

[Text] [Mubarak] I would like to start today's ceremony marking the beginning of the establishment of the Palestinian authority and the arrival of Yasir 'Arafat in Gaza today, God willing. We believe it is a historic day. The Palestinian problem has existed for approximately 46 years. For the first time in around 27 years, indeed since 5 June 1967, the Palestinian authority will enter Gaza today. We consider it a historic day, one that we should celebrate as the first step toward ending the occupation

and establishing the Palestinian authority on the land of Palestine. I welcome Yasir 'Arafat. Today's ceremonies begin with this news conference. Thank you.

['Arafat] Mr. President, before leaving here for the homeland, I cannot but thank you from the bottom of my heart. What we have seen in recent days would not have been possible were it not for the backing, support, efforts, and blessing of President Mubarak. From the bottom of my heart and in my name, on behalf of my colleagues in the Palestinian leadership, the Palestinian National Authority, and the Palestinian people, I say to you from the bottom of my heart thank you, thank you, thank you.

[Correspondent] Your Excellency President Mubarak, I have a question for you and another one for President 'Arafat. Israel is besieging Jerusalem and is trying to prevent the Palestinians from undertaking any political activity there, claiming that it is Israel's unified and eternal capital. My question to President 'Arafat is: Peres said following the agreement that the issue of Jerusalem is excluded from the self-rule agreement and that he does not expect it to be discussed in the next two years. Is that so? Thank you.

[Mubarak] Let me say a few words before Mr. 'Arafat starts. Jerusalem is an issue of interest to both the Arab and Islamic worlds. Jerusalem contains Islamic, Christian, and also Jewish sacred sites, so I do not believe it is Israel's eternal capital. But I could say that in the end it must be subject to negotiations to find a solution to this problem. This, I believe, is what we hear in all the statements.

[Correspondent] President 'Arafat, what about my question?

['Arafat] It is not true that Jerusalem is not part of the negotiations. There are subjects we have agreed upon, five of them. They are [to be discussed] as soon as possible and not exceeding the beginning of the third year [last 13 words in English]. These subjects are: Jerusalem, the settlements, the borders, and other subjects. I would like to say here, while I am standing next to my brother President Husni Mubarak and as he has precisely stated, that if the Israelis have sacred sites in Jerusalem, they undoubtedly know that there are also sacred Islamic and Christian sites in Jerusalem. Thus a political, religious, and clear-cut solution to the issue of Jerusalem must be found. If there is goodwill—there was when we signed the latest agreement in Cairo and the one before it in Washington and, despite all those who wagered that no agreement would take place, an agreement was signed with goodwill and good faith—so likewise, with goodwill and good faith, we will find solutions for Jerusalem that satisfy everybody. Jerusalem is the first place to which Muslims have turned in prayers, the third ranking holy shrine, the destination of the journey of Prophet Muhammad, may God's prayers and peace be upon him, and the birthplace of Jesus Christ, may peace be upon him.

[Correspondent, in English] Mr. 'Arafat ...

[Mubarak, interrupting] I would like to add a few words to Mr. 'Arafat's remarks. The beginning of the self-government authority and its implementation on Palestinian territory may give confidence and peace of mind to the parties concerned with the issue. Once confidence is established between Israel and the Palestinians I believe the problem of Jerusalem will be a great deal easier to solve and it will be easier to negotiate solutions that satisfy all the parties. Thank you.

[Correspondent, in English] What message are you bringing to your Palestinian people and what message do you have for the Israelis who are protesting today your arrival?

['Arafat, in English] Simple and clear. The peace of the brave which we have signed here in Cairo now had been implemented on the ground. And we have to carry on till we be able to continue the implementation of what had agreed upon. In the past, to speak frankly, we were enemies but now we are neighbors living beside each other. And we have to put in our consideration that a new era in the Middle East has to be understood from everybody—from the Israelis, from the Palestinians, from the Arabs.

[Correspondent, in English] President 'Arafat. This is the Egyptian Nile TV. We would like to know when will you be taking up permanent residence in the territories and what are the procedures that are going to follow your entry into Gaza, inshallah, and perhaps Jericho?

['Arafat, in English] Jericho and Gaza, no doubt of it. And after three months before starting the election, the rest of the West Bank. Because as had been known, Gaza and Jericho first and later on after three months, before the election, we hope that also, and we are looking to, not only hoping, we are looking to also the rest of the West Bank, the rest of the West Bank. And you are most welcome to visit me there.

[Correspondent] Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, I would like to know your feelings as you start the march toward liberating the Palestinian land today. What is the next step in the peace talks with Israel?

['Arafat] When I left Beirut someone asked me about this. You know, we left Beirut after an 88-day battle. The person who asked this question was Andropov in Moscow. He asked me: Where to after Beirut? I answered him: To Palestine. Now, thanks to the efforts by my brother President Husni Mubarak, together with other Arab brothers and friends, including the Russian and U.S. cochairmen, I am now on my way to Palestine.

[Mubarak] If you want to know the feelings of Yasir 'Arafat on his way there, come to the border and see the emotion without asking questions.

[Correspondent] We want to ask the president the following. What is your feeling about a Palestinian beginning on Palestinian land now?

[Mubarak] Naturally, from the start, I would tell you that I am very happy to see solutions to efforts that have been made since 1967. They have been difficult efforts. There have been some concessions by the parties. No one imagined that the Palestinian authority would set foot on Palestinian land—there was no hope—especially after 27 years or that Palestinian land would begin to return to its owners. I am telling you of these feelings here in Cairo. If you want to know the real feelings, come with us to the border. There you will learn and experience for yourself the feelings regarding the entry of the chairman of the authority to the land of Palestine for the first time.

[Correspondent] Is this an invitation, Mr. President, to [sentence incomplete as heard]?

[Mubarak] Yes, it is an invitation. You are welcome.

[Correspondent, in English] President Yasir 'Arafat. It has been declared that you will be meeting Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in Paris in few days.

['Arafat, in English] In few days?

[Correspondent, in English] In few days?

['Arafat, in English] In few days, no; on the sixth of the [sentence incomplete as heard]

[Correspondent, in English] On 6 July, in four or five days. Today is 1 July. So this meeting holds a further new step in widening the self-rule in the West Bank and another further step in the peace process?

['Arafat, in English] I have mentioned it clearly and obviously that we had started directly the early empowerments—between five and eight early empowerments—in rest of the West Bank. And very soon we will start this early empowerment in the rest of the West Bank.

[Correspondent] President 'Arafat, does your departure for Gaza today indicate that the problem of financial aid approved for the Palestinian authority will be settled? What is your position on the donor countries' reported wish to send representatives to supervise the way in which the aid will be spent?

['Arafat] Now now. Have they sent any aid so that they might supervise how it will be spent? Regrettably, regrettably, regrettably, we have received nothing but promises. We have received nothing but promises and some small things: Some $5 million from the United States and $2 million from Norway only for the expenses of the police upon their entry. But so far—I am saying these words clearly and frankly—I have received nothing but promises. I hope these promises will be fulfilled because, regrettably, Israeli colonialism [al-isti'mar al-isra'ili] totally ruined the Palestinian infrastructure. We now need to begin from scratch in every sphere, every sphere. This is the international community's responsibility. This is the occupation that took place. [previous sentence as heard] This devastation on our territories of our institutions and infrastructure is Israel's responsibility first and the world community's responsibility second. I am sorry to say it but I have received nothing but promises. I hope these promises will become facts, or figures at least. I hope so.

[Correspondent] President Yasir 'Arafat, this is a question from Egyptian Television Channel 1. What is the significance of your entry to Gaza via Egypt?

['Arafat] By what route do you expect me to enter? It was necessary for me to come here first and greet my brother President Husni Mubarak, acknowledging his efforts. Before I left Tunis I visited President Zine el Abidine and greeted him. If my brother president will allow me, I wish to address a greeting full of respect to all my brothers, telling them that I take pride in their actions and informing them that this Palestinian infant is an integral part of our Arab nation and our pan-Arab movement at this new international junction under the aegis of the new world order.

[Correspondent, in English] We are following the security arrangements on the Israeli side and on the Palestinian side ...

['Arafat, in English, interrupting] and on the Egyptian side.

[Correspondent, in English] And my question is: Are you afraid that something might happen? I am sure that some people are curious why you still carry the pistol?

['Arafat, in English] First of all I can't change my leather [skin]. This is the typical Yasir 'Arafat—in the past, in the present, and in the future. Second I am a strong believer. It is not the first time that some threats from extremists exist here and there, the last one from Rabbi Goren and also from Sharon. But you know it is not the first time and will not be the last time. I am a strong believer. I believe in God.

[Correspondent, in English] And you are not afraid?

['Arafat, in English] Do you think so? [laughs]

[Correspondent] This is a question from the BBC. On the occasion of this meeting with President Mubarak, did you discuss resuming the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations in Cairo. My second question concerns your visit to Jerusalem about which no announcement has been made. Will it happen soon? I would like to ask President Mubarak: Will you go to Jerusalem with President 'Arafat?

[Mubarak] Why are you in a hurry to know when I will visit Jerusalem? A day will come when I will visit Jerusalem.

['Arafat] And a day will come when we will pray in Jerusalem, God willing.

[Correspondent] And the negotiations?

['Arafat] Discussions are under way between us and them about the venue of the next talks.

[Correspondent] I am Sawsan Abu-Husayn from the newspaper AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT. This question is for Presidents Mubarak and 'Arafat. There has been speculation about the reasons why Your Excellency's visit to the liberated areas was postponed during the transitional period. Did you judge this stance to be for the good of the peace process or not?

['Arafat] Now, when I asked His Majesty King Fahd to send planes to transport our troops, and I thank him for it, do you think we were acting in jest? Do you think I would send people in and then sit back and watch them from abroad? I will help my people to establish and build this new entity.

[Correspondent] And President Mubarak's opinion on this issue?

[Mubarak] My comment is that these reports are tendentious reports that have particular goals. What I know is that Yasir 'Arafat always planned, he was working on agreements, to visit the liberated territories. There is no doubt about this.

['Arafat] I will live in the liberated territories. It is not a visit. I will reside in the liberated territories.

[Correspondent] Perhaps there is speculation that there will be a danger to Your Excellency's life and that this might hinder the peace operation.

['Arafat] You know better, you know. What danger are your talking about?

[Correspondent, in English;] Chairman 'Arafat, what are your expectations today as you travel to Gaza?

['Arafat] What is ...?

[Correspondent, in English, interrupting] What are your expectations, your feelings as you travel today to Gaza?

['Arafat, in English] You have to remember that the last time I was in Palestine secretly and I enter secretly and I left secretly. Now I am returning to the first free Palestinian land. You have to imagine how it is moving my heart, my feelings.

[Mubarak] Thank you all. Thank you.

Leaves for al-'Arish

NC0107104594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1037 GMT 1 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 1 Jul (MENA)—Presidents Husni Mubarak and Yasir 'Arafat left Cairo this afternoon for al-'Arish. President Mubarak will see off President 'Arafat at the Egyptian border before President 'Arafat enters Palestinian territory on this historic day, which comes approximately two months after the Israeli-Palestinian Agreement to implement the self-rule was signed in Cairo on 4 May.

Sha'th Meets Musa, Explains 'Arafat Gaza Visit

NC3006134294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1130 GMT 30 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, 30 Jun (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met today with Dr. Nabil Sha'th, the Palestinian official in charge of planning and international cooperation and head of the Palestinian delegation to the negotiations with Israel.

After the meeting Sha'th said that they completed discussion of 'Arafat's visit to Egypt, which was delayed until tomorrow, Friday [1 July], because Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali plans to hold an official farewell ceremony for the Palestinian president in Tunis this evening.

He said 'Arafat will arrive in Cairo Friday morning and from there will go to Alexandria for important talks with President Husni Mubarak on Palestinian developments. He said 'Arafat will leave for Gaza Friday evening or Saturday morning.

Sha'th explained that 'Arafat will take the plane from Alexandria to al-'Arish, and then travel by car to Rafah border crossing and Gaza.

He said the Palestinian police will protect the Palestinian president during his visit to Gaza, but his protection during his travel from Gaza to Jericho will be the responsibility of the Israeli police.

Algeria's Sifi Arrives, Meets Mubarak

NC0107082394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0800 GMT 1 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 1 Jul (MENA)—Algerian Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi and his delegation arrived in Cairo this morning on an official visit to Egypt. Sifi was received at Cairo Airport by Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi; Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa; Dr. 'Atif 'Ubayd, minister of public business sector and minister of state for administrative development; Finance Minister Dr. Muhammad al-Razzaz; the Algerian ambassador in Cairo; and embassy staff members. President Mubarak is scheduled to meet the Algerian prime minister later today.

[In a related report, Cairo MENA in Arabic at 0805 GMT on 1 July adds the following: "President Husni Mubarak this morning received Algerian Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi, who arrived in Cairo earlier today carrying a message to President Mubarak from Algerian President Lamine Zeroual."]

Musa, Belgium's Claes Discuss Cooperation

NC3006104094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0900 GMT 30 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, 30 Jun (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa held a round of talks today with Willy Claes, Belgian vice prime minister and foreign minister, who is currently visiting Egypt.

In a joint news conference with Claes following the talks, Musa said that they had discussed a number of issues of interest to the two countries, chiefly the situation in Rwanda and the Middle East, the ongoing fighting in Yemen, bilateral ties and the ways to promote them. Musa thanked Claes for Belgium's role at the recent EU [European Union] summit in Corfu, where it voiced support for a dialogue between the EU and Egypt to sign a new cooperation agreement between them and backed the Middle East peace process.

The Belgian foreign minister said that his tour of Egypt and some Gulf states was to highlight the EU's support for the Middle East peace process. He referred to the EU's support in signing an agreement with Egypt to promote Egyptian-European cooperation in all fields. He noted that he had listened to Egypt's views on the Middle East peace process during his meeting with Minister Musa, adding that Egypt is playing an important role at this delicate stage. He commended President Mubarak's role in promoting the peace process. He added that his talks with Musa had dealt with the situation in Yemen, and noted that Belgium supports the Security Council's resolution to end the fighting and to create an appropriate atmosphere to begin a dialogue and achieve a peaceful settlement in Yemen. He added that his country is prepared to contribute to ending the fighting in Yemen and starting a dialogue between the parties to the conflict.

Turning to Rwanda, Claes described the situation there as a human tragedy. He pointed out that his country had backed France's humanitarian initiative in Rwanda, adding that Belgium has dispatched a military hospital there. He noted that Belgium backs the ongoing efforts to achieve national reconciliation in Rwanda and stresses the need to implement the Arusha agreement, because resolving the Rwandan problem can be attained only through dialogue and reconciliation among the disputant parties. Claes called for holding a regional conference to secure a peaceful settlement in Rwanda.

Concluding his remarks, Claes expressed happiness at Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat's scheduled visit to Gaza tomorrow or the day after tomorrow. He emphasized Belgium's readiness to help the Palestinians in their reconstruction work and in improving their living standards.

The Belgian official arrived in Cairo last night on a one-day visit to Egypt at the end of a regional tour that took him to Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, and Oman to discuss the latest developments in the Middle East.

Egypt 'Anxious' To Stop Yemen Bloodshed

NC3006145794 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 30 Jun 94

[Text] Ambassador Badr Hammam, President Mubarak's envoy to Yemen and assistant foreign minister for Arab affairs, has stated that Egypt is anxious to stop the bloodshed in Yemen and preserve the country's national resources and achievements. Ambassador Hammam said Egypt seeks to accomplish this goal and work on strengthening the cease-fire to prepare the appropriate atmosphere for resuming calm dialogue between the warring parties so that security and stability can be realized there.

The Egyptian envoy added in a news conference he held at the Egyptian Embassy in Sanaa that Egypt's efforts to find a settlement to the crisis in Yemen is a direct, honest, and faithful expression of the fraternal relations that link it to both parts of Yemen, north and south. Ambassador Badr Hammam said Egypt's stand is clear. It consists of preserving the unity of Yemen and its people and working on averting any dangers.

Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that implementing the Security Council resolution, which was issued last night on Yemen and which stipulates sending monitors there, depends on the contacts the UN secretary general will hold with various countries, the Arab League secretary general, and the Yemeni sides.

Security Forces Arrest Seven 'Extremists'

NC3006031694 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 22 Jun 94 p 1

[Report by Muhammad 'Abd-al-Fattah]

[Text] Al-Jizah security organs arrested seven dangerous extremists inside a den in the "Nahya" area, including the leader of the extremist groups in al-Jizah and al-Sharqiyah, the day before yesterday.

A security source confirmed that the arrested extremists took part in exploding devices in front of a number of banks in al-Jizah and also took part in the Imbabah riots. The source added that the arrested leader was found to have scars on his left leg resulting from the explosion of a device inside one of Bulaq al-Dakrur mosques. He also had thrown a device at a vehicle carrying some officers and his arrest had been ordered by the state security's prosecution office.

The source said that the leader ordered his group to carry out some terrorist operations in the Upper Egypt governorates. Members of this group carried fake identity cards.

The security organs are interrogating the arrested extremists in order to discover the identities of the other members.

Mauritania

Assembly Speaker, Senate President Meet Sanaa Envoy

JN3006185794 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 30 Jun 94

[Text] Brother Dr. 'Abd-al-Wahhab Mahmud, staff member of the House of Representatives Speakership,

who is currently visiting the Mauritanian capital city of Nouakchott, today met with Cheikh Sid'Ahmed Ould Baba, speaker of the Mauritanian National Assembly.

During the meeting, Mahmud relayed to the Mauritanian official a message from his brother Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar, speaker of the House of Representatives, on the latest Yemeni developments. The two officials also reviewed bilateral ties, particularly in the parliamentary field.

The speaker of the Mauritanian National Assembly underscored the importance of safeguarding Yemeni unity and democratic accomplishments. He also underlined the importance of efforts to end the bloodshed to promote security and stability in Yemen and the region at large.

Brother Dr. 'Abd-al-Wahhab Mahmud also met separately with brothers [words indistinct], secretary general of the the Democratic and Social Republican Party, and Dieng Boubou Farba, president of the Senate.

During the two meetings, Mahmud and his two Mauritanian interlocutors had an exchange of views on the situation in our country. The Senate president and the secretary general of the Democratic and Social Republican Party reiterated the support of the Mauritanian government and people for Yemeni unity, which constitutes a great Yemeni and pan-Arab gain that should be safeguarded and protected.

Dispatch of Medical Team to Rwanda Protested

LD2706160494 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 27 Jun 94

[Text] Mauritania decided yesterday to send a medical team to Rwanda. This decision has provoked a sharp reaction from the Negro-Mauritanian liberation movement. The African Liberation Forces of Mauritania [FLAM] have condemned the Nouakchott authorities in a communique accusing them of denying the deportation of tens of thousands of Negro-Mauritanians to Senegal and Mali. The FLAM are asking the Rwandans and international public opinion not to be tricked by the maneuvers of the racist Mauritanian state.

Sudan

Cooperation Agreements To Be Signed With Azerbaijan

EA3006183094 Khartoum SUNA in English 0925 GMT 30 Jun 94

[Text] Khartoum, 30 June (SUNA)—Azerbaijan Deputy Foreign Minister Alber Slamov [name as received] arrived in Khartoum Wednesday [29 June] on an official visit to the Sudan carrying a message from Azerbaijan President Heydar Aliyev to President 'Umar al-Bashir, dealing with the developed relations between the two countries.

Slamov, who is accompanied by a high-level delegation of the Azeri Foreign Ministry, will attend the Sudan's celebrations of the fifth anniversary of the National Salvation Revolution and hold talks with the officials on means of boosting bilateral cooperation in all fields. Slamov said in an arrival statement that his visit comes at the invitation of the Sudanese Foreign Ministry, adding that the delegation will participate in the Sudan's celebrations of the salvation revolution's 5th anniversary.

A number of agreements and memos of understanding will be concluded during the visit for the promotion of economic and trade cooperation between the two countries. The Azeri deputy foreign minister was received at the airport by Foreign Minister Husayn Abu-Salih and the state minister at the Foreign Ministry, Bishop Gabriel Rorich.

Meanwhile, Sudan ambassador to Azerbaijan, Hasan Bashir 'Abd-al-Wahhab, has announced that five joint cooperation agreements would be signed during the visit covering various spheres of cooperation. The ambassador, who arrived here Wednesday from Azerbaijan, added that a delegation from Azerbaijan's oil company will visit the Sudan mid July, indicating that bilateral cooperation started last year when the Sudan opened its embassy in Azerbaijan.

Chadian President Deby Begins Visit

EA3006141594 Khartoum SUNA in English 0950 GMT 30 Jun 94

[Text] Khartoum, 30 Jun (SUNA)—Chadian President Idriss Deby has arrived here Thursday [30 June] on an official visit to the country heading a Chadian delegation to participate in the 5th anniversary of the salvation revolution.

In a press statement, the Chadian president said that the visit comes in the framework of the continuing of meetings between the two countries' leadership for boosting bilateral relations and to take part in the 5th anniversary of the salvation revolution. The Chadian president described Chadian-Sudanese relations as "strong" and "deep-rooted", pointing [out] that the two sides are exerting joint efforts for promoting relations in various fields.

The Chadian president exerted considerable efforts in the context of achieving national reconciliation in Chad in a bid to end the Chadian people sufferings.

The Chadian president was received at Khartoum Airport by President 'Umar al-Bashir, vice-president Maj Gen George Kongor and Sudanese officials.

Opposition Urges Pressure To Free al-Mahdi

PM3006131294 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 30 Jun 94 p 4

[Report by Muhammad Hasan Ahmad: "Sudanese Opposition Forces Urge Pressure To Free al-Mahdi"]

[Text] Bonn—The Sudanese opposition forces' conference held in Bonn, Germany, under the sponsorship of the World Christian Solidarity Organization, concluded its sessions the day before yesterday by issuing a final statement, urging democratic world governments to exert pressure to secure the release of former Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi.

The statement condemned the Sudanese government's practices, its violation of human rights in Sudan, ethnic cleansing in Jibal al-Nubah, and the abduction and ideological brainwashing of children, orphans, and the homeless. The statement also condemned the haphazard bombardment of residential areas in southern Sudan and Jibal al-Nubah, the bombardment of refugee camps, and mass emigration to neighboring states.

The statement broached the torture of political prisoners and executions without trial. It also condemned "interference in neighboring states' affairs and exporting terrorism." The statement appealed to the UN secretary general to do all he can to guarantee the delivery of humanitarian aid to the abducted children camps and to return them to their families, especially in the south and in Jibal al-Nubah. The statement urged the warring parties to refrain from dragging civilians into their battles and to take account of Article III of the Geneva Convention on human rights.

The statement supported the initiative of the IGADD (Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development) states and the principles listed in the 20 May plan. It said that all parties to the conflict should participate to secure a solution, because war cannot secure a just and final solution to the problem. All parties should initiate a dialogue, engage in negotiations, and uphold the principle of the right to self-determination for southern Sudan by conducting a referendum. Political, legal, economic, and social issues should be given priority, on the grounds that Sudan is a multiethnic, multiracial, multireligious, and multicultural country.

The statement stressed the need for an immediate halt to the fighting as a step toward securing a common ground for a comprehensive and just solution to the conflict. It pointed out that the referendum question mentioned in the IGADD plan must include southern areas and Jibal al-Nubah and the need for all political parties to participate in Sudan's future.

Tunisia

French Foreign Minister Juppe Pays Official Visit

Meets With Counterpart

LD3006005694 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 29 Jun 94

[Excerpt] Foreign Affairs Minister Habib Ben Yahya at the foreign ministry yesterday afternoon [29 June] held talks with his French counterpart Alain Juppe who arrived earlier on an official visit to Tunisia.

After the talks, which were attended by the two countries' ambassadors, the two ministers presided over the opening session of the 14th round of the Tunisian-French governmental committee.

In a statement to journalists, Alain Juppe described Tunisian-French relations as very good. He noted that his talks with Habib Ben Yahya, which lasted over an hour, dealt with a number of bilateral, regional, and international issues. He pointed out that he felt great harmony between Tunisian and French views regarding all the issues discussed.

Alain Juppe was asked a question on the future of Tunisian-French relations. He replied that these relations raised optimism. He stressed that with the exception of some difficulties of technical nature, which committees and working parties were busy trying to resolve, the two sides were determined to have close opinions about the issues which concerned them, particularly those which concern cooperation among the Mediterranean countries. He added that France was a superpower which looked towards the Mediterranean, and that Tunisia had the same approach. Therefore, he said, it would be useful to exchange views on security and stability in the region. [passage omitted]

Discusses Relations With Ben Ali

LD3006180494 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 30 Jun 94

[Text] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali this afternoon at Carthage Palace received Alain Juppe, French minister of foreign affairs, in the presence of Habib Ben Yahya, minister of foreign affairs, and the two countries' ambassadors.

After the meeting, Alain Juppe stated: I was greatly honored and very pleased to be received by President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. We discussed bilateral relations, which are good. The meeting of the governmental committee has provided impetus for progress. Naturally, there are some issues which need to be resolved. This is normal in international relations. I will mention in particular the real estate issues.

Regarding the future of Tunisian-French relations, the French minister of foreign affairs said: I view them with great optimism, in view of the deep-rooted traditional friendship between France and Tunisia. We have identical interests, particularly in this part of the Mediterranean. It is important to both Tunisia and France, which also has a Mediterranean outlook.

Alain Juppe also said his meeting with the president dealt with big international issues. In this context, he pointed to the objectives and form of the French intervention in Rwanda, which he described as a humanitarian intervention for a limited period carried out with the authorization of the United Nations. He said: I am

hoping that we would agree as soon as possible on the means by which the Organization of African Unity, chaired by Tunisia, and the United Nations would be able to continue the mission.

Alain Juppe concluded his statement by saying he was leaving Tunisia confident there are firm ties between Tunisia and France.

Concludes Talks, Departs

LD3006221594 Tunis Tunis-7 Television in Arabic 1900 GMT 30 Jun 94

[Excerpts] A ceremony was held this morning at the building of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. During the ceremony, Habib Ben Yahya, minister of foreign affairs, and his French counterpart, Alain Juppe, signed the minutes of the meetings of the Tunisian-French governmental committee.

Mr Habib Ben Yahya said this session allowed both sides to evaluate bilateral ecoromic, financial, cultural, scientific, and technical cooperation and give it a richer content marked by diversity and innovation. He stressed that Tunisian-French cooperation was able to continue in a changing world, it even achieved progress in some spheres. The foreign affairs minister reiterated the strength of the French-Tunisian multifaceted relations. Mr Habib Ben Yahya described results of the 14th session of the French-Tunisian governmental committee as, the first promising outcome which would allow for a new stage marked by bolstering French-Tunisian ties and dealing with some issues pending solution in a satisfactory way. He went on to say that French- Tunisian ties are based on mutual interests in political, economic, cultural, and humanitarian fields and are supported by a dynamism aimed at promoting partnership.

On his part, Mr Alain Juppe highlighted the progress achieved by the Tunisian-French governmental committee, a progress that is in line with the two governments and peoples' interests. He stressed three spheres of cooperation which are: the settlement of the real estate issue, economic partnership, and the Tunisian cultural festival which is to be opened soon in France.

The French minister spoke on the real state issue and expressed hope that this matter would be given further care and attention in order to speed up dealing with pending files. He pointed out to financial cooperation and qualified it as ideal and exemplary. He also expressed satisfaction at the availability of means which would allow the two countries' small and medium companies to establish a real partnership. In this regard, he stressed the need to pursue joint efforts to encourage investors to establish projects in both Tunisia and France. Regarding bilateral cooperation, the French minister for foreign affairs said the Tunisian-French governmental committee had noted the large progress achieved through this cooperation. [passage omitted]

In a news conference he held at the VIP lounge at Tunis Carthage International Airport, on departure from Tunisia, Mr. Alain Juppe stressed the importance France was according to further promoting its relations with Tunisia of democracy and human rights. He added that the exchange of points of view on issues of common interest, made his visit a fruitful and positive one.

Qatar

Foreign Minister Confers With Iraqi Ambassador

JN3006201894 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 30 Jun 94

[Text] Iraqi Ambassador to Qatar Anwar Sabri 'Abd-al-Razzaq met with Foreign Minister Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Bin-Jabr Al Thani in Doha today.

During the meeting, they exchanged views on the Gulf situation and the Arab situation in general, as well as on the fraternal relations between both sisterly countries and ways to enhance them to achieve the objectives of Arab solidarity and preserve pan-Arab security.

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Receives Algeria's Sifi, Zeroual Letter

LD0107085394 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 30 Jun 94

[Excerpt] Today King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, received at his residence outside Jeddah Algerian Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi, and the delegation accompanying him. Mokdad Sifi delivered a letter to the custodian of the two holy mosques from President Liamine Zeroual of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria. [passage omitted]

Sifi Hails King's Support for Government

LD0107085494 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0045 GMT 1 Jul 94

[Excerpts] Jeddah, 30 Jun—Algerian Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi, who is currently visiting the Kingdom, expressed his deep gratitude and sincere thanks to King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, may God preserve him, for the particular attention which he and the delegation accompanying him have received during their visit. [passage omitted]

Mokdad Sifi made a statement at the beginning of a news conference which he held this evening at the palace of conferences in Jeddah, where he is staying. Mokdad Sifi said that he has sensed King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz's great interest in Algeria and the current situation there, as well as his great optimism about the success of President Liamine Zeroual's plan for getting the country out of the crisis.

The Algerian prime minister added that the custodian of the two holy mosques has indicated his readiness to help and support the Algerian government during the transitional period and to bolster cooperation between the two brotherly countries in all fields. [passage omitted]

Sifi said that the transitional period is now firmly in operation on the political, social, economic and security levels, as well as at the level of international relations since this is in the interest of Algeria, its neighbors, and its partners. He said that the dialogue is open to all those who condemn and renounce violence and terrorism to participate in the Transitional National Council, and that over 30 parties, trade unions and cultural and economic bodies have joined in. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

Minister Discusses Stand on Yemen, Islands Issue

JN2906164094 London AL-WASAT in Arabic 27 Jun-3 Jul 94 pp 22-25

[By George Sam'an]

[Text] Abu Dhabi—After war erupted in Yemen and the southerners declared the Democratic Republic of Yemen, the United Arab Emirates [UAE] took a strange stand by using the title "his excellency the president" for 'Ali Salim al-Bid, the Yemeni Socialist Party secretary general. Observers viewed that stand as "an implicit recognition" of the new state and also as a hasty move. Consequently, many analyses and interpretations emerged, especially after Emirian President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan blamed President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih for launching the war against Aden.

Shaykh Hamdan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, Emirian minister of state for foreign affairs, who followed up all moves, meetings, and contacts regarding Yemen, asserted to AL-WASAT that there was neither implicit nor explicit recognition, and reiterated a previous official explanation that Emirian media use the very names and titles people use for themselves. For example, if the southern Yemenis use the title "his excellency the president," then he is "his excellency the president."

He wondered: "Why are observers and those concerned with the Yemeni issue surprised by Abu Dhabi's interest in what is taking place in a fraternal country, whose instability would reflect on the region's countries? It has been said that before the eruption of war between Sanaa and Aden, the UAE led a mediation effort and showed much concern about Yemen's unity, which should be maintained through approval and not by force." He also said that his country extended much assistance to Yemen before and after unity. [passage omitted]

Shaykh Hamdan stressed that his country does not extend anything other than humanitarian assistance to any of the conflicting parties. He added: "We will not be the first to recognize the Democratic Republic of Yemen, but we will not be the last to recognize it if the crisis does not end." [passage omitted]

The talk about Iranian infiltrations into the UAE leads to the issue of Tehran's interference in the domestic affairs of some Arab countries; its continued occupation of Abu Musa, Tunb al-Sughra, and Tunb al-Kubra islands; and its threats that it will not abandon them even if the Gulf drowns in blood.

The islands issue is still unresolved. Every now and then, Tehran makes a statement in which Abu Dhabi finds no positive response or flexibility to resume the talks to resolve the islands problem. Shaykh Zayid announced an initiative to start direct negotiations to resolve the dispute. The UAE also welcomes an initiative. If these two methods fail, then the International Court of Justice must be the party that decides the matter to ensure the return of rights.

Shaykh Hamdan Bin-Zayid, who is the most informed person of this file, told AL-WASAT that the UAE, like other Gulf Cooperation Council member states, cannot ignore Iran's position, role, and interests in the region and wishes to establish ties of good neighborliness with a big Muslim state, but would not accept threats or occupation. He stressed that his country "cannot relinquish a single inch of its occupied territory and if it remains unresolved, the issue will remain a stumbling block, even for generations to come, along the road to any normal relations with Iran."

He added: "If the Iranians have historical documents to prove their claim to the three islands, then let them take them to the International Court of Justice. We will take our documents and will accept any verdict passed by the court, whether it is in our favor or against us. They must first agree to go to the Court. Their rejection of arbitration means they do not have the right to sovereignty over the islands. [passage omitted]

Yemen

Sanaa Radio Carries Text of Cease-Fire Agreement

JN0107055494 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 1 Jul 94

["Text" of the Yemeni cease-fire agreement signed in Moscow on 30 June—read by announcer]

[Text] With the mediation of the foreign minister of the Russian Federation, those involved in the dispute have agreed on the following:

1. A general and comprehensive cease-fire to take effect at 2400 [2100 GMT] on 30 June 1994, and then a mutual abstention from the use of force in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 924 on the situation in the Republic of Yemen.

2. The participants of the meeting are agreed on the need to pursue the negotiations about the final solution, the mechanism of which will be formed in line with UN Security Council resolutions.

3. All those involved in the dispute commit themselves to extending to the International Committee of the Red Cross and other humanitarian organizations all facilities without hindrance to make sure deliveries of food, medicine, and water get to the areas suffering from the dispute, particularly in the Governorate of Aden and areas that have been accommodating displaced persons in other governorates.

[Signed] Andrey Kozyrev, Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation;

Muhammad Salim Basindwah, Foreign Minister of the Republic of Yemen;

Salim Salih Muhammad, Yemeni Presidential Council member

Al-Bid on Latest Cease-Fire, Military Operations

NC3006200594 London MBC Television in Arabic 1910 GMT 30 Jun 94

[Telephone interview with 'Ali Salim al-Bid, "president of the Democratic Republic of Yemen," by Nicole Tannuri at his al-Mukalla headquarters "a short time ago"—recorded]

[Text] [Tannuri] How true are the reports that you have departed Yemen for medical treatment abroad?

[Al-Bid] I am speaking to you from democratic Yemen. South Yemen has a large territory of 336,000 sq km.

[Tannuri] The UN Security Council yesterday repeated its call to both sides to observe a cease-fire. Neither side has abided by this resolution.

[Al-Bid] This is the Security Council's responsibility. I wish to say, however, that the other side will not abide by a cease-fire unless there are international observers. We are accustomed to their deception, lies, and broken promises. Do not expect that they will abide by the resolution unless there are international observers and this hinges on the earnestness of the Security Council and that of other international organizations. I hope that they will shoulder their responsibility.

[Tannuri] Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, you signed an agreement with the northerners in Moscow today that provides for a cease-fire at midnight tonight. In your opinion, does the Russian mediation introduce a new factor into the Yemeni crisis?

[Al-Bid] The agreement is identical to the Security Council resolution and was meant to prepare for its implementation. Nevertheless, I am afraid that the fate of this cease-fire will be similar to that of previous ones. We abided by the recent 48-hour truce to enable the Red Cross to perform its tasks, despite this morning's provocative and indiscriminate bombardment. We remained silent and did not retaliate. In the afternoon, however, they carried out an offensive against Dar al-Amir. They were trying to make what they have been claiming for the past two months come true. They have been saying for two months that they had reached Dar al-Amir. Our forces confronted them and repulsed their attack. It was they who began the hostilities. They are the violators.

[Tannuri] The U.S. Embassy in Sanaa announced that the Ma'rib oil field was hit by southern gunfire. Why did you shell this vital installation?

[Al-Bid] If someone monitored all the bombardment, it would be good for us all. No one spoke of the shelling of the Aden refinery for the third time yesterday. I want the world to ensure that the new international relations are respected. When we watch your televised newscasts these days, we can see how four or five areas are burning at the same time. The few news items in the broadcast are about conflicts that no one is trying to stop. Perhaps there is encouragement for the strong to swallow up the weak. I hope that the world's influential powers will put an end to these human tragedies.

Al-Jifri Reportedly Flees Country, Joins al-Bid

JN3006170394 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1628 GMT 30 Jun 94

[Text] Sanaa, 30 Jun (INA)—Observers here have asserted that 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Jifri, assistant to the leader of secessionists, has joined his superior 'Ali Salim al-Bid, who fled the country following the collapse of his groups' trenches in strategic positions in Aden early this week.

Observers do not rule out that al-Jifri's joining of al-Bid strongly indicates that both men are now in Riyadh [capital of Saudi Arabia], judging from the close relationship between al-Jifri and the Saudi rulers. While many observers highlight this possibility, others believe that al-Bid and his assistant are now in the Djibouti capital, which is separated from Aden only by the Strait of Aden.

It is known that al-Bid fled a few days ago after the legitimate forces took full control of most suburbs of Aden, except for the suburbs of al-Mukalla, Crater, and al-Tawwahi. The legitimate leadership in Yemen postponed a decision to enter these three suburbs in order not to inflict casualties and damage on the civilians and residential areas as a result of armed confrontation after al-Bid's groups turned the citizens and their homes into shields to protect themselves.

Salih Praises Yeltsin Role in Cease-Fire Pact

JN0107060594 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 1 Jul 94

[Text] Lieutenant General brother 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Presidential Council chairman, has expressed his warm welcome and great appreciation, in the name of the Presidential Council and the Yemeni people, for Russian President Yeltsin's hospitality and assistance in the signing of the cease-fire agreement for our country. The brother president praised the generous efforts exerted by the Russian president and government to reach this blessed result, which is aimed at stemming the flow of Yemeni blood and speeding the movement toward dialogue and the establishment of peace and stability throughout the one Yemeni land. He emphasized his conviction that dialogue is the road to resolution of all internal problems and a definitive end to the acts of rebellion and deviation from legitimacy and constitutionality.

The brother president highly praised the developing historic ties between the Yemeni and Russian peoples.

Salih: Government Troops Control 70 Percent of South

JN3006134994 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1130 GMT 30 Jun 94

[Text] Sanaa, 30 Jun (WAKH)—Yemeni President Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has announced that the Yemeni legitimacy forces are now in control of more than 70 percent of the areas and districts that were under the control of the Yemeni separatists.

In statements published by Yemeni newspapers today, the Yemeni president stressed that the legitimacy forces have managed to seize huge quantities of weapons that were in the hands of the separatists. These weapons, he added, were obtained from socialist countries, and some "Arab regimes," alluding to the Saudi regime and the rulers imposed on Kuwait [first use of the phrase "rulers imposed on Kuwait" monitored from Iraqi media since early March 1994].

The Yemeni president renewed his call for these regimes, which he said do not want a better life for Yemen, to halt their support for the separatists, and to stop their efforts to hurt Yemen and exhaust its people economically and militarily.

The Yemeni president affirmed that the Yemeni legitimacy forces are maintaining a forceful presence at the entrances to Hadramaut, the largest Yemeni governorate in the east. He added that these forces have occupied positions that are only 45 kilometers away from the city of al-Mukalla, where 'Ali Salim al-Bid is hiding.

The Yemeni president revealed that the legitimacy forces have managed to seize four MiG planes and three serviceable helicopters. He noted that there are parties, which he failed to identify, that are currently supplying the separatists with fighter planes, experts, and mercenaries via the Port of al-Mukalla.

He explained that the legitimate forces currently control 55 percent of Aden, and that they can easily enter the rest of the city's parts and districts. He said that the Yemeni leadership's compliance with the cease-fire prevents it from entering the city militarily.

The Yemeni president reiterated rejection of any move to internationalize the Yemeni issue. He stressed that the endeavor to internationalize the crisis within the framework of the UN Security Council is part of a scenario which does not want Yemen to enjoy stability and aims to prolong the conflict instead of ending it.

He added that the internationalization scheme that some Arabs are working hard to achieve begins with prolonging the conflict, imposing sanctions, and punishing the Yemeni people.

He accused Gulf states, particularly Saudi Arabia, of leading the internationalization scheme on the pretext of sparing Yemeni blood. However, in fact, he said, they want to interfere in Yemen's affairs.

He added that the Yemeni leadership is doing its best to resolve the Yemeni crisis and prevent it from being internationalized. While hoping that the Yemeni problem will be resolved politically, he said: "Perhaps a military solution will be inevitable to prevent foreign intervention."

He expressed pride in the support of the Arab people in Iraq and other Arab states for Yemeni unity.

Salih Says Aden To Have 'Great Future'

JN0107063594 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 1 Jul 94

[Text] Brother Taha Ahmad Ghanim was sworn in yesterday before brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, the Presidential Council chairman, on the occasion of his appointment as governor of Aden.

The brother president later gave him the necessary instructions, wishing him success in his task. The brother president emphasized that the command attaches special importance to Aden in appreciation of the unique militant role the city has played in the homeland's history and unity. The president said that the command will rebuild and repair all that the war has destroyed and will offer the brother governor all possible assistance to enable him to successfully assume his responsibilities of developing Aden and its utilities in a manner that will upgrade the standard of living for its inhabitants, that will befit Aden as the economic and commercial capital, and that will enhance its role as an important port and free zone.

The brother president said that Aden will witness a great future, full of promise and progress, to make up for all the years of deprivation and suffering its good inhabitants have endured under the canopy of the gang of rebellion and secession. This gang is currently taking refuge behind defenseless inhabitants in the heroic city, making them suffer from the repression and torture it carries out against its inhabitants and forcing elderly people, children, and women to fight in its ranks, thus sending them into the crematorium of death.

The president said that Aden will become free of military camps and weapons after the rebels are expelled from it in a manner that will not permit the recurrence of any new tragedy in the history of this heroic city. In the past, the city suffered greatly from political conflicts and bloody and regrettable incidents, the most prominent being what took place on 13 January 1986, not to mention its current tribulation at the hands of the rebels who take refuge behind its elderly people, women, and children, and use them as human shields after having transformed the city into a weapons arsenal stockpiled with huge quantities of machines of death and destruction in order to destroy the homeland and dismember its unity.

The brother president said that heroic Aden will always remain a symbol of unity, amity, and peace, and a city for all the unionist and nationalist inhabitants who were at the forefront of the strugglers who upheld our Yemeni people's decision to carry out the revolution, and to achieve freedom, independence, and progress, and who now support our people's determination to safeguard unity, democracy, and respect for constitutional legitimacy.

Salih Receives U.S. Envoy, Administration's Message

JN3006151094 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 30 Jun 94

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, today received Arthur Hughes, U.S. ambassador to our country. The U.S. ambassador conveyed to the brother president a message from the U.S. Administration, dealing with the developments in our country in light of the issuance of the new Security Council Resolutions 931 on the situation in the Republic of Yemen, as well as with issues that concern Yemeni-U.S. relations.

The brother president noted, during the meeting, the continuous violations of all cease-fire resolutions by the rebels against legitimacy. He also noted their disregard of all calls and efforts exerted by brothers and friends to achieve a cease-fire and to resolve the Yemeni problem through dialogue with the aim of prolonging the conflict and internationalizing the Yemeni crisis.

Council of Ministers View Foreign States' Actions

JN3006144594 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 30 Jun 94

[Text] The Council of Ministers resumed its extraordinary meeting this morning under Acting Prime Minister brother Dr. Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar to complete discussions of the topics on its agenda. It has made a number of decisions. The meeting is still in progress. The following statement was issued:

Henceforth, the Government of the Republic of Yemen will not ignore the irresponsible conduct and harmful actions of some fraternal and friendly states. These states are carrying out actions and adopting unfriendly positions that violate the agreed international principles and bases of dealings among states and governments.

Any state, whether fraternal, friendly, near, or far, which is materially and morally supporting both the rebels and those encroaching upon the constitutional legitimacy in

Yemen, and which is also supplying them with funds and hardware or with political support, is actually adopting an unfriendly position against Yemen. Moreover, these states are directly breaching the requirements of mutual respect and behaving in a way that conflicts with Security Council Resolution 924 regarding the situation in Yemen.

The source [as heard] asserted that insistence on continuing this conduct following this statement will mean that these states have opted for a position that is flagrantly hostile toward the Yemeni people and their supreme interests, and this will harm the joint relations and interests.

The statement stressed that, henceforth, these states' official and diplomatic dealings with the rebellious elements, who are violating the legitimacy in Yemen, will not be ignored. Moreover, these dealings will not only prompt us to be explicit and to end our good faith toward these states, but will also prompt us to deal with these states in the same way as they are dealing with Yemen.

Al-Iryani: Government Accepts UN Resolution 931

JN3006201094 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1935 GMT 30 Jun 94

[Text] New York, 30 Jun (INA)—Yemen has expressed satisfaction with UN Security Council Resolution 931, for it deals with the situation in the country as a domestic affair and within the framework of the legitimate unity.

In a news conference in New York today, Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Iryani, Yemeni minister of planning and development, said that the Yemeni Government has decided to continue dialogue with the secessionists under the supervision of UN envoy Lakhdar Brahimi to effect a cease-fire mechanism in Yemen.

Al-Iryani added that the Yemeni Government has noticed with satisfaction that Resolution 931, which was issued last night, deals with the Yemeni problem within the framework of Yemeni unity, and that his government declares its acceptance of the aforementioned resolution.

He said that unfortunately the secessionists use the cease-fire for narrow political purposes to internationalize an internal problem.

Al-Iryani explained that he received official assurances from his government today that the cease-fire started at 0800 [0500 GMT], local time, today. Implementation of the Moscow permanent cease-fire agreement will go into effect as of midnight tonight.

House Speaker Confers With Iraqi Ambassador

JN3006152894 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 30 Jun 94

[Text] House of Representatives Speaker brother Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar, today received Iraqi Ambassador in Sanaa Dr. Muhsin Khalil. During the meeting, they discussed relations between the two fraternal countries and ways to enhance and promote them in the interest of both peoples.

The Iraqi ambassador emphasized his country's support for Yemeni unity because it is a pioneering pan-Arab achievement that should be preserved.

Casualties Said Be Caused by Chemical Weapons

NC0107061494 Paris AFP in English 0143 GMT 1 Jul 94

[Report by Katherine Roth]

[Text] Sanaa, July 1 (AFP)—Doctors at northern Yemen's largest military hospital in Sanaa say they have been treating patients with injuries caused by chemical weapons used in the civil war.

But despite severe shortages of medical supplies and staff, they are managing to save the lives of most of the war wounded.

"Most of our patients were hit by missiles or shrapnel during air raids in the Aden area," said doctor Ibrahim al-Ruba'i, director of the national military medical services.

"But some people come in with burns from napalm and phosphorus, especially from the areas of al-'Anad and Zinjibar," north and east of Aden, respectively.

Another doctor at the hospital, Ahmad al-Dufri, also said he thought chemical weapons were being used. The Yemeni military was conducting tests to confirm what types of chemicals, if any, were being used.

But a United Nations spokesman in Sanaa said he had no knowledge of chemical weapons being used in the war, and Allen Keptchar, deputy chief of mission at the US embassy in Sanaa, said he could not confirm the reports.

In the hospital, a northern soldier said he was evacuating a fellow soldier from the battle zone near the northern Aden suburb of Dar al-Amir when his Toyota Landcruiser converted into an ambulance hit a chemical mine.

Second Lieutenant Abd-al-Wasi' Muhammad Nu'man, 43, lay with 75 percent of his body covered in second and third degree burns.

Nu'man said he had lost his sense of smell and much of his eyesight and hearing in the blast, in which the ambulance was engulfed in flames.

Five members of Nu'man's family were still fighting in the war.

Doctor al-Ruba'i said there were "lots of wounded and most of the foreign doctors we used to depend on have fled the country."

Hundreds of foreign medical specialists, mostly from Russia, Bulgaria and India, left Yemen after the civil war broke out on May 5 between forces loyal to President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and those of his southern rival 'Ali Salim al-Bid.

More than 424 civilians have been killed and 1,170 wounded since northern forces began their assault on the southern stronghold of Aden on June 11, according to figures from official and hospital sources.

"We've only got 300 beds, and the hospital was always full even before the war," said doctor Ishaq Rizq Ghanim, a Jordanian who has been working in the hospital for two and a half years.

"I've personally done four amputations here since the start of the war. Because of the mines some patients come in with limbs that are already basically amputated."

Lieutenant-Colonel Ahmad Yahya 'Ali, 39, was one such case.

On June 21 he removed 32 landmines from the edge of a road near al-Mukalla, the southern port city where al-Bid has been rallying his forces, east of Aden.

Lt-Col 'Ali stepped on the 33rd mine, which severed his right leg.

"They are using plastic mines that can't be located with metal detectors. I was walking with a meter-long stick in one hand and a metal detector in the other, sweeping for mines. When I stepped onto the kerb there was a big explosion. Now I just wish I could be home," he said.

The electricity flickered on and off as orderlies at the hospital scrubbed the floors.

The hospital's intensive care unit has only nine beds.

The physiotherapy wing is being converted into a large intensive care unit, and a medical wing into a surgery unit to meet wartime demands.

"We need more beds, more experienced nurses and more ventilators," said Doctor Mohan Singh, from Bombay.

In an adjacent room a southern Yemeni pilot lay in a coma.

Southern soldiers in the hospital said they received the same treatment as northerners and were free to return home when cured.

"Often we cannot save those with abdomen and chest injuries because of internal bleeding, but most of the bomb blast and bullet patients pull through okay," said Singh. "In this kind of situation a four-out-of-five survival rate is not so bad."

Southerners Raid Oil Field in Ma'rib 30 Jun

JN3006180594 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1709 GMT 30 Jun 94

[Text] An official source has stated the following: At a time when our Armed Forces remained in full compliance with the cease-fire agreement reached in New York last night between Planning and Development Minister brother Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani and brother Lakhdar Brahimi, envoy of the UN secretary general, which stated that the cease-fire will take effect as of 0800 today, the rebels, as usual, only a few hours after the cease-fire went into effect, violated the cease-fire in defiance of this agreement. One of the planes still in their possession launched an aggressive air raid against the (?Satir) oil field in the Ma'rib Governorate at 1400 [1100 GMT] today, targeting oil installations in the area.

The source added that this new violation of the cease-fire by the rebels, which is the seventh, is a continuation of a series of cease-fire violations by the rebels, who are are fighting the legitimate government, refusing to comply with UN resolutions, and disregarding all the calls and good offices being made by brothers and friends to establish a cease-fire, halt the bloodletting in Yemen, and give the political solution a chance to succeed through the launching of a peaceful dialogue within the context of national constants, chief among which are unity, democracy, and respect for constitutional legitimacy.

South Bolsters Defenses as Northern Troops Near

NC3006185294 Paris AFP in English 1757 GMT 30 Jun 94

[By Maher Chmaytelli]

[Excerpts] Aden, Yemen, June 30 (AFP)—Southern Yemeni forces deployed tanks and snipers to boost their defences on the edge of Aden's suburbs Thursday [30 June], as a ceasefire was announced for midnight.

Troops loyal to President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih besieged Aden with 15 brigades and were within one kilometre (less than a mile) of the city.

The southern presidential council accused northern forces of continuing their offensive on the port city, in breach of what it called an earlier northern pledge to let the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) restore the water supply.

A statement broadcast on Aden television said the northern forces had "resumed operations" despite "assurances" given to the ICRC. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, southern troops were deployed on the outskirts of the northern Dar al-Amir suburb of Aden and Mansurah in the west, to block the northern advance.

They erected sand barriers and dug trenches, while Russian-made T-54 tanks were deployed and sharpshooters posted on rooftops, an AFP correspondent reported.

Dar al-Amir is virtually deserted, with northern troops less than a kilometre (just over half a mile) away.

Northern forces were also within five kilometers (three miles) of Mansurah, according to southern officials loyal to 'Ali Salim al-Bid. One unit had fought its way to less than two kilometres (a mile) from the suburb.

Southern military officials said 15 northern armoured and infantry brigades were ringing the city.

Seven civilians, including two children, were wounded in shelling Thursday, workers at the main Al-Jumhuriyah hospital in Aden said.

Three civilians were killed and eight wounded overnight in the western suburb of Mansurah, they said. [passage omitted]

Northern troops have cut off the south's access to the oil refinery at Little Aden, and intense battles have been raging at Hiswah, 10 kilometres (six miles) from the city, where Aden's main power station is situated.

More than 424 civilians have been killed and 1,170 wounded since the north began its assault on the city on June 11.

War broke out on May 5 and al-Bid declared a separate state two weeks later, shattering a fragile four-year union between the former Marxist South Yemen and conservative, tribal North Yemen.

Fighting Resumes on Aden Outskirts at Dawn

NC0107055294 Paris AFP in English 0500 GMT 1 Jul 94

[Text] Aden, July 1 (AFP)—Fighting between northern and southern Yemenis resumed at dawn Friday [1 July] on the outskirts of Aden after a lull overnight in the wake of a ceasefire agreement concluded Thursday in Moscow.

Artillery fire could be heard from 7:30 a.m. (0430 GMT) despite the ceasefire, which should have come into force at midnight (2100 GMT) Thursday.

A salvo of five rockets had hit Aden 20 minutes after the ceasefire deadline, killing three civilians and wounding another, the city's main al-Jumhuriyah hospital said.

But that was the only incident during the night as the artillery duels gradually died away.

The ceasefire was the sixth since the civil war broke out on May 5, shattering the fragile four-year union of the former North and South Yemen.

In the subsequent fighting northern forces have reached the gates of Aden, capital of the breakaway south.

Six Killed, 34 Hurt as North Strikes Aden

NC0107121994 Paris AFP in English 1126 GMT 1 Jul 94

[Report by Maher Chmaytelli]

[Text] Aden, Yemen, July 1 (AFP)—Six people were killed and 34 wounded as northern Yemeni forces bombarded Aden and fought with southern troops Friday, shattering another ceasefire in the two-month civil war.

A salvo of five Katyusha rockets hit Aden 20 minutes after a midnight (2100 GMT) ceasefire deadline set by the warring sides following Russian-brokered talks in Moscow Thursday [30 June].

Six civilians were killed and 11 wounded in the attack, hospital workers said. The dead included four members of a family.

Later 23 southern soldiers were wounded in clashes which erupted along the frontline around Aden at 7:30 a.m. (0430 GMT).

The ceasefire was the sixth since the civil war broke out on May 5, shattering the fragile four-year union between the former North and South Yemen.

Southern officials accused the forces loyal to President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih of trying to advance into Dar al-Amir with tanks. The deserted village lies 14 kilometres (nine miles) north of Aden city centre.

The officials said two tanks were destroyed and two captured when southern troops repulsed the offensive.

The positions on the frontline were unchanged Friday, after northern forces advanced to within one kilometre (less than a mile) of the city Thursday.

Northern forces were also within five kilometers (three miles) of the western suburb of al-Mansurah, according to southern officials loyal to 'Ali Salim al-Bid. They said 15 northern armoured and infantry brigades were ringing the city.

The two sides fought artillery duels and also clashed with automatic weapons and anti-tank rockets Friday.

Red Cross workers in Aden were expected to try to cross the front line to reach the water pumping station at Bi'r Nasir and carry out repairs there, but fighting was still too heavy in the afternoon.

A Red Cross boat arrived in Aden harbour Thursday, risking the constant bombardments to bring in urgently needed supplies, including pumps, generators and chlorine to improve water supplies from the 44 working wells in the city.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) called Wednesday for a ceasefire to allow it to repair the pumping station.

It has warned that Aden is on the verge of a "catastrophe" if water supplies are not restored soon to the city's 500,000 residents.

Northern troops have also cut off the south's access to the oil refinery at Little Aden, and intense battles have been raging at Hisswa, 10 kilometres (six miles) from the city, where Aden's main power station is situated.

Southern forces have dug trenches and erected sand barriers on the edge of Aden to repel the north's advance.

At least 430 civilians have been killed and 1,181 wounded since the northern bombardment of the city began on June 11.

The UN Security Council welcomed the latest ceasefire agreement, and northern and southern Yemeni officials were due to meet again in New York Friday to discuss monitoring arrangements.

Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev had mediated two days of talks with Yemen Foreign Minister Muhammad Basindwah and Salim Salah Muhammad, a representative from breakaway south Yemen.

In New York Yemeni Planning Minister 'Abd-'al-Karim al-Iryani said Sanaa would support a regional mechanism for monitoring the ceasefire and expressed hope that Arab nations would provide military observers.

He said his southern counterpart Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas had agreed in principle on the plan.

The UN Security Council Wednesday adopted a resolution calling for an immediate ceasefire and condemning the civilian casualties in the assault on Aden.

Tariq 'Aziz Returns From Visit to Vatican

JN3006185294 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1815 GMT 30 Jun 94

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Jun (INA)—Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz returned to Baghdad this evening following a visit to the Vatican and Italy lasting several days.

During the visit, Tariq 'Aziz met with His Holiness Pope John Paul II, the Vatican's secretary, and several political and parliamentary officials in the Italian Chamber of Deputies and Senate, as well as a number of businessmen.

Minister Receives French Business Delegation

JN3006200094 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1755 GMT 30 Jun 94

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Jun (INA)—Agriculture Minister Karim Hasan Rida met here today with the French business delegation that is currently visiting the country.

During the meeting, the minister reviewed the repercussions of the treacherous aggression and continued blockade on Iraq, particularly on its agricultural sector. He also reviewed the great efforts made by the workers in this sector to provide food.

The representatives of the French firms showed readiness to cooperate with Iraq in order to circumvent the blockade, promote the agricultural sector, and provide it with various agricultural needs.

MIO, French Firms To Cooperate in Civil Industries

JN0107061694 Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic 21 Jun 94 p 2

[Text] Lieutenant General Engineer 'Amir Muhammad Rashid, director of the Military Industrialization Organization [MIO], has met with a delegation of businessmen representing 28 French firms in the various industrial, oil, transport, communications, and health sectors.

The two sides reviewed relations between Iraq and France in the field of reactivating civil industries. The French firms expressed their readiness to seriously strengthen bilateral relations and to actively participate in various development projects and civil industries, including medicine, food, cars, agricultural tools and machinery, petrochemicals, iron, steel, aluminum, and others to help strengthen the ties of friendship and common interests between Iraq and the French companies.

The delegation's visit has come within the current French moves to reactivate these companies' contribution toward bolstering Iraqi civil industries.

The meeting was attended by the under secretary of the Ministry of Industry and Minerals.

Decree Authorizes Seizure of Deficient Mills

JN2306193394 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Text] The Revolution Command Council has issued a decree authorizing the trade minister to seize mills which do not comply with the production plan in terms of the required quality and quantity. These mills will be operated by the Ministry of Trade. Following is the text of the decree:

The Revolution Command Council

Decree

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate
The Republic of Iraq, the Revolution Command Council
No. of decree: 73
Date of decree: 13 Muharram 1415 Hegira, corresponding to 22 June 1994

Decree

Based on the provisions of Paragraph A of Article 42 of the Constitution, the Revolution Command Council has decided the following:

The following shall be added to the last sentence in Article 1 of Revolution Command Council Decree No. 160, dated 1 November 1993: The minister of trade is authorized to seize mills which do not comply with the production plan in terms of the required quality and quantity. These mills will be operated by the Ministry of Trade.

2. [as heard] This decree shall be implemented as of the date of its publication in the official gazette.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, chairman of the Revolution Command Council

It is noteworthy that Article 1 of Revolution Command Council Decree No. 160, dated 1 November 1993, contains the following: In addition to the penalties according to the enacted laws, the minister of trade, or whom he may deputize, is authorized to impose an immediate fine not exceeding 10,000 [Iraqi] dinars on each violation made by the mill owner or when the latter disposes of the commodities contrary to the regulations or statements issued on organizing the work of mills.

'Waffler' Clinton's 'First Crime' Viewed

JN3006114094 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 27 Jun 94 p 1

[Article by Salah al-Mukhtar: "Iraq's Curse"]

[Text] One year has elapsed since the first crime of wavering U.S. President Bill Clinton against Iraq. The aggression was the second against Iraq. It claimed the lives of a new group of Iraqi martyrs when strategic missiles were fired against Baghdad regions. The question must be asked here: Why was the waffler told to

deliver a strike against Iraq? The answer raises many ideas, which are now very clear.

The undecided Clinton was told that bombing Baghdad would stop the deterioration in his popularity, pave the way for changing the political status quo in Iraq, and preserve the image drawn by the U.S. media for him as a historic, strong leader who firmly fights terrorism.

Has this happened? Absolutely not. Those who convinced him the campaigns launched against him—which weakened him inside the United States—would stop, deceived him and continued to blackmail him. They stepped up their extortionist pressure and scandalized him and his wife. The image of the historic hero, which he sought to draw of himself, turned into one of a stupid president who bombs cities and kills civilians to defend a claim that was not substantiated by the evidence. Moreover, he could not achieve his objective of depicting Iraq as a country that practices terrorism because the investigations and hearings that took place regarding the Bush assassination story did not produce any piece of evidence in one year. As for bringing about a change in Iraq, the whole world has acknowledged that there is no hope of changing the political status quo in Iraq and that the leadership of President Saddam Husayn is gaining more support from the people.

In fact, the stupidity of waffler Clinton and his crime have even solicited denunciation from allied quarters—French and Russian quarters, for example—who openly criticized the attack on Baghdad. Waffler Clinton has thus realized that he is not only a waffler, but that he has also mastered the art of lying, acting, and conscience-selling. He is also dexterous in conjuring tricks involving sleight of hand to cover up his defects, even if the cover he uses is a bloodbath that gushes from the hearts of other human beings.

Paper: Foiling U.S. Blockade 'Sacred Task'

JN0107065594 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 23 Jun 94 p 15

["Sidelines" column by Sabri Hammadi: "A Noble National Task"]

[Text] Resisting and foiling the blockade is a noble national task; nay, it is a sacred task that rises to the level of defending land, honor, sovereignty, and national independence. This is not only because the blockade is a form of U.S.-NATO aggression against our people and country, which every honest Iraqi must confront and defeat, but also because the defeat of this blockade means the defeat of the U.S. tyrant's wager on it.

It is no longer a secret that the U.S. Administration is the only one insisting on the unjust blockade on Iraq and the only one still wagering that this blockade will achieve for it what its barbaric armed aggression, with all its mean and evil aims and intentions, could not achieve.

Those in Washington are still miscalculating. They still erroneously wager that the blockade and its consequences, represented by the high cost of living and the starvation and impoverishment of the Iraqi people, will lead to changing the regime in Iraq. They still dream that this aim, which all their armies, planes, missiles, and fleets could not achieve, will be achieved by the imposed blockade.

They forgot that four years of blockade have cogently proven the futility of this wager and the wagerers' reliance on it. On the contrary, these four years have increased and deepened the Iraqi people's solidarity and cohesion with their faithful historical leadership. In fact, the last four years have made the Iraqis hold ever more firmly to their struggler leader Saddam Husayn and to their independent national, pan-Arab, and humanitarian line.

Paper Reiterates Saddam's Call To Rebuild State

JN2806140294 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 19 Jun 94 p 3

["Standpoint" column by 'Isa Isma'il al-'Abbadi: "Showing Vigor"]

[Text] What is required now is vigor and more vigor. With these words, which are packed with power, resolution, and a sense of national and pan-Arab responsibility, the leader of the people and the state, President Saddam Husayn, addressed the cabinet when he chaired its fifth meeting since assuming the premiership on 30 May 1994.

A neutral follower of what is currently taking place in Iraq will observe that the leader president is leading a national campaign in which the party, the people, and the official institutions are taking part in order to reinvigorate the state and repair any damage its departments may have sustained throughout the years of the unfair blockade, due to the rabid and misleading campaigns by corruptive elements and the enemies of the revolutionary march wherever they came from.

The vagabonds have exploited the simple employee, whose capabilities have been affected by the rough life of the blockade, and tried to corrupt him. Whoever has been tempted by them is no longer a suitable employee by any proper criterion. So what is required now is to increase our vigor in order to preserve the one whose resolve has not been weakened and who has remained solid despite the blockade and to reinforce his resolve further for the remaining part of the confrontation with the evil forces. The vigor must also be increased in order to treat those souls who have been hurt in one way or another and to help them overcome their tribulation. At the same time, what is required is to clamp down with an iron fist on everyone who contemplates hampering the march of the people and the state to sound construction.

Throughout its history, Iraq has known worse invaders, criminals, and murderers than Bush, still it has remained strong and firm with the resolve of its sons and its many contributions to mankind.

Today, we are in dire need of work and more work. It is with work alone—and I mean productive and creative work—that nations can advance. No doubt, work carries all the meanings of dignity, honor, science, jihad, and the resort to reason and logic.

It is with work that nations can progress and advance. It is with work that we can bring up persevering generations that know no laziness. It is with work that we can distinguish the good employee from the lazy one.

Our country is rich, and all that appears on the surface now is incidental and transient. The leader president once said an American cannot live on two dollars. Now, market speculators are saying the salary of the Iraqi government employee is not more than two dollars. They forget, or pretend to forget, that despite the hardships of the blockade, the Iraqi employee enjoys free education and medical care as well as government subsidized foodstuffs. Were it not for the greed of these speculators and the transport sector, this employee would have been able to confront the blockade with better performance and would have defeated it with the cooperation of the other sections of the population.

It is a fact that Iraq is floating on a lake of oil and owns the second largest oil deposits in the world. The Iraqis hold the keys to the pipelines. Furthermore, the Iraqis have other mineral resources and fertile agricultural lands which, if exploited well, will turn the balance of trade in Iraq's favor after achieving self-sufficiency. Perhaps the unfair blockade is one of the deepest experiences from which we must learn the lesson of hard work and perseverance for the sake of building Iraq so it will take its right place among the advancing countries.

Newspapers Have Fewer Pages; AL-IRAQ Comments

JN0107104594 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0925 GMT 1 Jul 94

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Jul (INA)—Affected by the unjust sanctions, Iraqi newspapers today appeared with fewer pages than usual.

In an editorial on the subject, the newspaper AL-'IRAQ said that, despite the difficulties caused by the sanctions, Iraqi newspapers will remain alert to their worthy role, inspired by the courage and wisdom of the leader and their distinguished track record.

Whatever the wicked do to contain our media and keep it from fulfilling its important tasks at this crucial stage, it will continue to get the truth across to its target audience with the same intensity.

Anxious to suppress Iraq's message, the wicked have denied our newspapers access to equipment and materials required for carrying on the business of journalism, especially paper, pencils, and printing materials, AL-'IRAQ said.

The paper called on Iraqi writers and journalists to steer clear of wordiness and pomposity. It urged them to be mindful of the reduced number of pages and observe the journalistic rule stressing substance and brevity.

Rabin on Right-Wing Plans To Seize Government Complex

TA3006143194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 30 Jun 94

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin disclosed at a Labor caucus meeting today that the government has information that right-wing circles might try to seize Jerusalem's government offices complex on Sunday [3 July] within the framework of protest actions over 'Arafat's arrival. This has been learned by our party affairs correspondent Shmu'el Tal.

The prime minister said funds have been raised for that purpose and that he expects a stormy weekend. Rabin said the right wing is well organized and the protest actions will be wide ranging. Police Minister Moshe Shahal confirmed the report to our correspondent. He said the known planned protest actions are a clear violation of the law and are aimed at disturbing public order. He avoided saying how he had received the information. The police minister reiterated that there is no intention to carry out preemptive detentions. Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu, who was asked for his response, said he has not heard anything about a plan to seize the government complex and that it had not come up in any way at the meeting of opposition leaders.

More on Rabin Remarks on Right-Wing Plans

TA3006161094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1505 GMT 30 Jun 94

[Excerpt] In an unprecedented attack at the Labor caucus in Tel Aviv today, the prime minister lashed out at the right-wing and religious parties. The prime minister said the extreme right is trying to overthrow the government with street violence, including a planned attempt to seize the government office complex by force on Sunday [3 June]. Our party affairs correspondent Shmu'el Tal provides us with details from Labor's Tel Aviv headquarters:

[Begin recording] [Tal] The prime minister today received information on what the right wing is planning during Yasir 'Arafat's visit. The information is unequivocal and grave, Rabin told caucus members. We can expect a formidable right-wing offensive against government. I feel we are losing all proportions, Rabin said.

I believe extreme right-wing violence will peak over the weekend, Rabin said. They have raised a great deal of money, here and abroad, in the hope of overthrowing the government by using street violence, including an attempt Sunday to seize the government office complex by force. The prime minister said that by the weekend, the right-wing and religious parties will initiate an intensive propaganda effort employing radical incitement tactics.

[Rabin] There have been reports—I hope it will not happen—to transfer the extreme right-wing's tent camp from opposite the prime minister's office to Damascus Gate [of the Old City] with the aim of creating Jewish-Arab confrontations. The police must maintain law and order. The Shamgar report into the Hebron massacre referred to the need to uphold the law in the territories. It is inconceivable that as the government we will not use all the force at our disposal to impose the law and prevent provocations against Arabs and Jews by other Jews who supposedly aim to defend a unified Jerusalem under Israeli sovereignty.

[Tal] Police Minister Moshe Shahal confirmed the remarks but refused to say how he had obtained the information.

[Shahal] There is information about an intention to disrupt law and order, and among other things, to seize the government offices.

[Tal] We asked Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres for his reaction to these charges. Peres appeared shocked by what he had heard from the prime minister at the meeting.

[Peres] It is not a struggle over the agreement with the PLO, it is a struggle over Israeli democracy. Whoever does something like that simply endangers democracy. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Likud Statement Calls Rabin Remarks 'Nonsense'

TA3006163094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 30 Jun 94

[Text] The Likud issued a statement tonight saying that the prime minister is under pressure because he knows that most of the public opposes the reception for Yasir 'Arafat. His remarks are nonsense because he knows the opposition parties will act with determination while using legitimate means, the Likud said.

National Religious Party Knesset Member [MK] Sha'ul Yahalom denied the prime minister's remarks about funding for antigovernment activities. The prime minister is rabble rousing and striking out indiscriminately, the NRP said.

Tzomet MK Moshe Peled said that there is no room for threats because all the demonstrations will be legal and based on the accepted rules of democracy.

Peres Comments on 'Arafat's Expected Visit

BR3006123094 Paris LE FIGARO in French 30 Jun 94 p 3

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Pierre Rousselin in Jerusalem; date not given: "Peres: 'An Event but Not a Test for Peace'"]

[Text] [Rousselin] Were you informed of Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Gaza tomorrow?

[Peres] No. Like you, I have just heard about it on the radio.

[Rousselin] How is it that he can come just like that without any warning?

[Peres] We will undoubtedly receive an announcement from him today. According to the agreements we concluded with him, he must inform us in advance.

[Rousselin] Do you see any problem with his coming on Friday [1 July]?

[Peres] No.

[Rousselin] What do you expect from this visit in terms of consolidating autonomy in Gaza and Jericho?

[Peres] 'Arafat is not coming to create a situation, but because this situation has been created. In Gaza, the situation is far better than what was anticipated. The atmosphere is one of joy and happiness. The most important thing is for Yasir 'Arafat to see this land with his own eyes. He has not been there for at least 28 years. Gaza is completely different; the situation is different and the people are different. 'Arafat will have to open his eyes wide. The first three days will be taken up mostly with ceremonies. I regret this because you cannot just celebrate; you have to go into the kitchen afterwards and do the dishes.

[Rousselin] Are you going to meet with Yasir 'Arafat?

[Peres] No, I do not think so. We will see him in Paris on 6 July (on the occasion of the awarding by UNESCO of the Houphouet-Boigny prize to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, Shim'on Peres, and Yasir 'Arafat—LE FIGARO editor's note).

[Rousselin] Will that be the right time to move onto the next stage and pave the way for expanding autonomy?

[Peres] Yes. We will have to makes plans for the next stage—its objectives, scope, and pace. We will come with our own ideas.

[Rousselin] In the West Bank, do you want to carry out an "accelerated transfer" of powers in the four areas planned: health, education, tourism, and taxation?

[Peres] Yes, but we have to see how we are going to do it, because we cannot transfer powers in these four areas without going into the issue of security, funding, and who controls the roads which cross the major towns in the West Bank.

[Rousselin] Does this mean that at this stage you are planning to deploy Palestinian police in West Bank towns?

[Peres] I am talking more about an extension of functions rather than an extension of territory. In other words, certain functions in the West Bank will he handed over to the Palestinian authorities. So far, the police have not been included in the four areas planned. Of course, in so far as these functions require the application of the law, then we also need police. However, we are talking about policemen with blue uniforms, i.e., civilian police, not policemen wearing khaki uniforms.

[Rousselin] So you are thinking of redeploying the Israeli Army outside West Bank towns?

[Peres] That is a possibility. According to the agreement, redeployment must precede elections in the territories. The organization of these elections is one of the options we have to discuss. We are in favor of holding elections, but we will not issue an ultimatum or set conditions.

[Rousselin] Is the redeployment of Tsahal [as published] in the West Bank dependent on the holding of elections?

[Peres] Not necessarily. It may be, just as it may not be. This is the sort of thing we have to look into, and which we will certainly have to negotiate if we agree to begin the "accelerated transfer."

[Rousselin] Is this transfer not yet a certainty?

[Peres] We agreed in general. Following the Cairo agreement on Gaza and Jericho, it was planned that we would begin to negotiate locally on the issue of "accelerated transfer." However, we did not go into details as to the nature or the arrangements for effecting the transfer. That will be the subject of negotiations.

[Rousselin] When do you think it will be finalized? Would it be possible to finalize it before the elections now planned in the territories for mid-October?

[Peres] Yes, it is possible, but there is no guarantee of this. Elections sometimes have a surprising side to them. There are also unpredictable events. There can be no question of setting a timetable.

[Rousselin] How do you assess autonomy so far?

[Peres] It is a great success. Terrorism is down. The conduct of the Palestinian police is more satisfactory than many of our experts had predicted. Israelis have practically forgotten that they were once in Gaza. The Gaza strip is no longer in the minds of Israelis. This proves that we made the right decision. We corrected a mistake that had lasted far too long. We never should have been in Gaza. We piled mistakes one on top of the other: For example Israeli settlements right in the middle of the Gaza strip are completely useless. That was a terrible mistake. The most important thing is that we demonstrated that we could resolve one of the biggest conflicts of our time, the Israeli-Arab conflict. No price can be put on that.

[Rousselin] Nevertheless, there is a down side: The difficulties encountered by the new Palestinian authorities in taking charge of administrative and economic life.

[Peres] Yes, that takes some time. Until now, the PLO was a movement in exile. It was busy making statements, and sometimes carrying out assassinations. That is completely different from managing reality, taking care of a

situation that has a geographical dimension, and taking account of priorities and needs.

[Rousselin] Is not the financial problem the crucial factor in the current difficulties?

[Peres] It is not a question of money, but a fundamental problem. Donors insist on "transparency" and clear accounts. That is logical. We cannot allow autonomy to deteriorate into something that is not organized and that smells of corruption.

[Rousselin] Are not donors more demanding vis-a-vis the Palestinians than vis-a-vis certain established states?

[Peres] They have no choice, because of the way that money was used in the past. The method must be changed. I said to 'Arafat: "There is money given to you, and money which you will collect through taxation. The money you collect through taxation in the territories you can use for political purposes, but the money you receive from abroad must actually be invested in development projects."

[Rousselin] When you designed the Washington agreement of 13 September 1993, you emphasized the economic aspect of the agreement. Yet there is already disillusionment...

[Peres] You cannot change people's lives overnight. We are trying to help. We have increased the number of work permits granted to Palestinians to work in Israel to 55,000. If there are no attacks, then we can raise the number even further. We have delayed the payment of electricity and water bills. We left a three-month reserve of medicines in the hospitals. However, the local authorities are very slow to collect taxes. Independence also brings with it obligations: The country must be managed. The new authorities will quickly have to decide what kind of economy they want to have: a state-run economy or a market economy. Otherwise, they might have independence but they will not have an economy.

[Rousselin] There are still questions about the Cairo agreement which have not been settled, such as passage between Gaza and Jericho, entry formalities, etc. Can you move on to the next stage before these matters are resolved?

[Peres] Yes. These are not burning issues. We are not trying to postpone them, but the issue of whether or not we have a guard on the Allenby bridge is not going to stop us from moving forward.

[Rousselin] Since 'Arafat's speech calling for a Jihad to liberate Jerusalem, it seems that the quarrel about Jerusalem has calmed down a bit.

[Peres] We are dealing with 'Arafat, not his speeches. We have a very limited admiration for his rhetorical skills. In our mind, Jerusalem is an open question as far as religion goes, but a closed matter politically. We will never allow the division of Jerusalem and the creation of a new Berlin Wall. However, as far as religion is concerned, we are prepared to meet the needs of the faithful. This same distinction is also made by King Husayn of Jordan.

[Rousselin] Would you prefer to talk about Jerusalem with King Husayn rather than 'Arafat?

[Peres] King Husayn is still in charge of the Waqf (the administration of Muslim religious property—LE FIGARO editor's note). He is the one who restored the Dome of the Rock. He was invited to come to Jerusalem.

[Rousselin] Can 'Arafat come to Jerusalem?

[Peres] In principle, he can. In practice, he will have to coordinate his arrival with us.

[Rousselin] So you are giving yourself a power of veto.

[Peres] No. It is not as simple as that. We do not have a veto, but we must bear the consequences in mind. We are not boy scouts. This is a matter that must be examined with great care. Jerusalem is a very delicate place and 'Arafat could easily stir up the city. However, so far, he has not asked for permission to come to Jerusalem. I do not see why we should give an answer before he asks the question.

[Rousselin] What do you think of those who, like Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert, want to organize demonstrations to stop 'Arafat from coming.

[Peres] We did not vote for him. The role of the mayor of Jerusalem is to maintain the balance of the city: not by using force, but through reason and patience.

[Rousselin] Will 'Arafat's arrival be a major test for the future of the peace process?

[Peres] No. 'Arafat's arrival will be an event, but not a test for peace.

[Rousselin] Negotiations will be initiated in mid-July with Jordan on concrete issues such as the layout of borders. Do you think there can be accords without a peace treaty?

[Peres] We want a peace agreement. When you want to build a family, there is nothing wrong with wanting to get married! If Amman has other suggestions, we are prepared to look at them.

[Rousselin] Yitzhaq Rabin recently said that if peace is not concluded with Syria within two or three years, Israel will have to prepare for the eventuality of war. It would seem that you are in a race against time, and that you wanted to finish things up before the Israeli elections in two years.

[Peres] Obviously we would love to have an agreement with Syria before the elections. I do not know whether that will be possible.

[Rousselin] Are the Americans doing enough to help?

[Peres] They are trying to do their best. They have set a limit which we accept: namely, not to be a party to the negotiations, but to facilitate them. Consequently, they may not make any proposals, but they are seeking to bridge the gap between us and the Syrians. I think that is reasonable.

Further on Peres Comments

TA0107121894 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1100 GMT 1 Jul 94

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by political correspondent Gadi Sukenik, in Peres' Jerusalem office "this morning"—recorded]

[Text] [Sukenik] Mr. Peres, did you believe last year that such a visit could take place?

[Peres] Yes. I have always thought that the best way to put an end to PLO in Tunis is to allow 'Arafat and his staff to visit the Gaza Strip, join the two together, and create a system of responsibility to replace the one of terrorism.

[Sukenik] When we will see the pictures of 'Arafat arriving, will it be a good moment for the Jews?

[Peres] This will be a good moment for both nations. It is excellent for the Jewish nation too. There is no explanation today for what business we had staying in Gaza for the past 27 years. Almost everyone today views our leaving the Gaza Strip as an excellent thing. We left it, and that is enough.

[Sukenik] What would you expect Yasir 'Arafat to do at this time? He will be coming for a brief visit, leave, and then what?

[Peres] He will return. Look, if he wants to head the Palestinian Authority, he must be there on the ground. You cannot lead via remote control. I believe that slowly he will establish himself and understand the scope of his responsibility.

[Sukenik] What do you expect him to do that he has yet to do?

[Peres] Two things: Make sure there is no more terror, and focus on economics. When the hostility between us and Gaza ends, the real enemy that will remain is poverty. If the economic and social situation in Gaza does not change, we will be facing many troubles, and so will he. I believe we should cooperate in order to upgrade the standard of living and lower the level of violence between the parties.

[Sukenik] And you have not said a thing about his stay on the ground, the need for his leadership?

[Peres] I believe he should be on the ground. He will travel some more and come back again but, as I said, he must be on top of things and deal with daily problems. The PLO is no longer an organization in exile that deals with issuing declarations. Now, it is an organization which bears daily responsibility for managing the lives of 800,000 residents. I also know that 'Arafat was very worried by the possible reactions in the Gaza Strip. I told him that I believe that, in general, the reaction will be excited, sweeping, and will create a momentum allowing us to take off in a new direction.

'Arafat Reportedly Not To Visit Jerusalem

TA0107132794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 1 Jul 94

[Text] Sources in the prime minister and foreign minister's bureaus have pointed out that Yasir 'Arafat will not visit Jerusalem in the course of his current visit. This was reported by our political correspondent Shlomo Raz.

Police Commissioner Asaf Hefetz has also announced that 'Arafat will not come to Jerusalem, thereby denying reports that he had requested Army backup for that purpose. The police chief said there was an understanding that protest rallies, such as a march on the Old City walls, would be banned from sensitive Jerusalem sites. He appealed to right-wing demonstrators to refrain from expressing their protest that way. Referring to the demonstration slated to be held in central Jerusalem tomorrow, the police commissioner said the area will be closed to traffic.

This morning the police minister, police commissioner, and the Jerusalem mayor agreed that demonstrations against 'Arafat's visit must be allowed, but everything should be done to ensure that the protest activities stay within democratic bounds. Mayor Ehud Olmert told our correspondent Aviv Bushinsky that he had pledged not to permit a tent city to be set up near Damascus Gate, and he appealed to protesters to refrain from rallying near Temple Mount.

President Weizman has personally appealed to Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert to take action to calm the raging tempers in the capital.

Majority Opposes 'Arafat Praying in Jerusalem

TA0107105094 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 1 Jul 94 p 1

[Text] A public opinion poll conducted by the Dahaf Institute, directed by Dr. Mina Tzemah, posed the following question: "Should the government permit Yasir 'Arafat to pray in Jerusalem?"

The answers were as follows: Should permit—32 percent; should not permit—65 percent; did not reply—3 percent.

The poll was conducted on 28 and 29 June and included 504 respondents constituting a representative sample of Israel's adult population. The maximum margin of error is 4 percent.

Opposition Parties Confer on Protest Activities

TA3006140394 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1300 GMT 30 Jun 94

[Excerpts] Yasir 'Arafat will arrive in the Gaza Strip on 1 July at 1100 GMT, this was announced today by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. The foreign minister said that Egypt had asked that 'Arafat accelerate his Gaza visit by 24 hours due to the visit to Egypt of the Algerian President. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1300 GMT on 30 June adds: "Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said that 'Arafat decided to arrive earlier, among other reasons, because Israel's government had asked him to do so, through Egyptian Foreign Minister Musa, in order to prevent Israeli soldiers and policemen from desecrating the Sabbath. Minister Peres told our correspondent Shmu'el Tal that there is no information regarding 'Arafat's planned visit to Jericho, and a visit to Jerusalem is not on the agenda. A visit to Jerusalem requires much coordination which did not take place, therefore there will be no such visit, Peres said."]

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has notified SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] that no desecration of the Sabbath will take place during 'Arafat's visit, unless the right-wing demonstrators force Jewish policemen to desecrate the Sabbath. Rabin spoke to SHAS leaders a short while ago, following a SHAS announcement that it will support the motion of no confidence in the government unless 'Arafat's visit is postponed. Following his announcement, Rabin called on SHAS and the right-wing parties to avoid staging demonstrations that might cause a Sabbath desecration.

Police Minister Moshe Shahal said today that 'Arafat's early arrival was approved by the prime minister's bureau this morning, and received police authorization. According to him, the fact that 'Arafat is arriving earlier than planned has nothing to do with religious matters. [passage omitted]

Speaking to our correspondent Razi Barqay, Shahal also said that the police do not intend to carry out preemptive arrests of right-wing activists. The security forces, however, do not rule out the possibility of imposing a closure that would prevent the entrance of Arabs into Jerusalem in a bid to prevent fanning the expected riots. [passage omitted]

The heads of the opposition parties held an emergency meeting to coordinate their acts of protest over 'Arafat's arrival. Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu clarified that the opposition will protest the visit only by legal means:

[Begin Netanyahu recording] We have legitimate tools to demonstrate our adamant protest and will operate, in the framework of this adamant protest, without violence but with all the legal means which an opposition has at its disposal in a democracy. [end recording]

Prime Minister Rabin canceled tomorrow's scheduled meeting with Netanyahu and other Likud Knesset members. The Likud was surprised that Rabin is devoting so much time to the reception for 'Arafat, but he cannot find the time these days for the representatives of the leading opposition party.

Four Injured in Jerusalem Demonstrations

TA0107053194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 1 Jul 94

[Text] Jewish settlers this morning blocked the Jericho-Jerusalem highway to protest 'Arafat's visit. They spread barbed wire on the road and in one place put a piece of concrete on the road. Several Arab cars were held up by the blockade.

In Jerusalem, three demonstrators and one border policeman were injured during a protest at the entrance to the city. Police used force to disperse the crowd. Fourteen demonstrators were arrested. Other demonstrations against 'Arafat's visit took place throughout the country.

Jericho, meanwhile, was closed at midnight to Israeli vehicles. The Army central commander, Major General Ilan Biran, says the step was taken for what were termed security considerations.

Settlers Continue Protests

TA0107075694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 1 Jul 94

[Excerpts] Settlers have again blocked the Jericho-Jerusalem highway. The security forces are trying to remove the obstacles from the road near Kfar Adumim. Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that the settlers are also blocking the road near Mitzpe Yeriho. Large traffic jams have formed at the two spots. The organizers of the roadblocks told our correspondent that they intend to continue holding up traffic on the road at different points each time.

The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is not permitting anyone who is not a resident of the Qatif Bloc to cross the Kissufim checkpoint and enter the bloc. Avi Farhan, a member of the secretariat of Eley Sinay, submitted a protest to the commander of the Southern Command, asserting that the IDF's closure of the Gaza Strip to Israeli citizens is disrupting daily life. [passage omitted]

Tzvi Hendel, the head of the Hof 'Aza Council, told our correspondent that he and Army officers had agreed last night that all Israeli citizens arriving at the checkpoints leading to the Qatif Bloc would be carefully screened and would be let through only after it had been verified that they were not demonstrators.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0700 GMT on 1 July reports that "dozens of Kfar Darom residents blocked the Gaza-Khan Yunus road for approximately one hour to protest the deployment of Palestinian

policemen along the road. The residents claim that this constitutes a flagrant contravention of the agreement between the Palestinians and Israel, according to which the Palestinian policemen are permitted to move along this route only within the framework of joint patrols with their Israeli counterparts." "Dozens of border policemen and IDF soldiers rushed to the scene and forced the residents back into the settlement."]

The opposition factions in the Knesset and right-wing Knesset members have called on the prime minister to prevent Yasir 'Arafat's visit at the last minute. They told our correspondent Hayim Hecht that this morning's terrorist attack in Netafim was a warning that the government cannot afford to ignore.

New Group Announces Plan To Assassinate 'Arafat

TA0107100794 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 1 Jul 94 p 3

[Report by Tzvi Singer]

[Text] Yesterday a new organization, calling itself LEHI [Fighters for the Freedom of Israel] 1994, announced its intention to assassinate Yasir 'Arafat. The handwritten announcement, which was faxed from Qiryat Arba', stated: "On 27 April 1994, a LEHI field court-martial decided to assassinate mass murderer Yasir 'Arafat. The mission: the Ya'ir force [named after Avraham alias Ya'ir Stern, leader of the prestate LEHI] will be entrusted with the speedy execution of mass murderer Yasir 'Arafat as soon as his feet touch the holy land. The force may employ any means it sees fit to achieve this goal."

The announcement also states that the letter was distributed to "warn the security forces and any government officials within a radius of 180 meters of the murderer that we will not be responsible for their safety." The message adds that the letter's distribution will also serve as "evidence in any show trial, if and when our heroes are apprehended after their operation."

The letter is signed: Ya'ir, commander of LEHI Eretz Yisra'el, 1994."

Sharon Says 'Arafat Visit Sign of Weakness

TA3006155794 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 30 Jun 94 pp 1, 19

[Commentary by Likud Knesset Member Ari'el Sharon: "The Gates of Gaza and the Walls of Jericho"]

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat's appearance in Gaza, and perhaps even in Jericho, with the permission, encouragement, and endorsement of the Israeli Government heralds the opening of a new and dangerous chapter in the history of the Jewish state.

He did not earn it because of his strength, but because of our weakness. Not because of his courage, but because of our cowardice.

This is the first time in Zionist-Jewish history, replete with achievements and triumphs, that an Israeli Government has capitulated to a man who represents its cruelest and oldest enemy and opens the gates of its homeland to him with its own two hands.

Ministers, generals, and Knesset members are competing for who will be the first to turn the key in the gates of Gaza and Jericho, who will be the first to clear the roadblock to allow the murderer to pass. It has happened in history that enemies have come to the land of the vanquished, but to be carried in on their shoulders has never been seen before. "It is a big day," says an Israeli radio journalist in an emotional conversation with a leader of the terrorist organization in Gaza....

We are a people who forget everything. Who still remembers the victims of 'Arafat the war criminal? The slaughtered, the maimed, and the burned victims? The bereaved parents, widows, and orphans? All of them are his victims. Who cares any longer for the fate of the MIA's, the POW's, or their bodies? He is the man who could tell us what happened to them. Did the government demand this as a condition for his visit? Who cares? The main thing is that "he" is coming. The messiah is here.

Who still remembers that 'Arafat is the man who personified the Palestinian Covenant—which has not and will not be canceled—that calls for the annihilation of Israel and the Jewish people? This is the man who called for a Muslim jihad to obliterate our sovereignty and control over Jerusalem; the same man who recently ruled once again (in the Fatah's election platform) that Jerusalem is "an Arab city, the capital of the state of Palestine." Did the government demand that he abrogate the Palestinian Covenant before coming here?

Who is still troubled by the fact that 'Arafat is personally responsible for the persecution of those men who collaborated with Israel and spared many of our lives? Did anybody make his visit conditional on ceasing the torture and murder of those Arabs who helped us?

The prime minister was not surprised by yesterday's announcement. It is all part of the deception game played by the government and its ally. This also applies to the day of the visit, a Saturday [2 July], in the hope that Jews observing the Sabbath (who are also the guardians of Eretz Yisra'el) will not spoil the government's machinations.

True, under this government we are no longer the heroic biblical Samson, but are we so feeble that we cannot carry the gates of Gaza and Jericho on our shoulders?

'Terrorist' Stabs Couple at Home in West Bank

TA0107044794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 1 Jul 94

[Text] In Qiryat Netafim, near Ari'el, a terrorist broke into a couple's home, stabbing them. The man suffered serious wounds in the stomach and face. The woman was stabbed in the back and hand and was listed in moderate condition. The man was able to get out of the house to yell for help, and a neighbor called security forces. The attacker fled, leaving the knife behind. He apparently headed for the nearby village of Qarawat Bani-Hasan, which the Army placed under curfew.

The injured couple was taken to Beilinson Hospital. Their four children were in the house at the time of the attack.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0400 GMT on 1 July adds that "the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip reacted to the attack by stating that it has no doubt that it was inspired by whom it described as the mass murderer Yasir 'Arafat. The council asserted that the prime minister should firmly deal with terrorism rather than allow the person responsible for such deeds to enter Eretz Yisra'el."]

Islamic Jihad Claims Attack

TA0107102694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 1 Jul 94

[Text] The Islamic Jihad has assumed responsibility for this morning's terrorist attack in the settlement of Netafim in Samaria. Yoram Saquri's condition is described as extremely critical. He was wounded in the stomach, back, and neck and was operated on at Beilinson Hospital. His wife, Hana, also underwent surgery. Her condition is described as moderate and stable.

DFLP Assumes Responsibility

JN0107113894 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1100 GMT 1 Jul 94

[Text] The Democratic Front of the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], led by Nayif Hawatimah, has claimed responsibility for wounding an Israeli settler and his wife when a Palestinian stabbed them with a knife in Qiryat Netafim settlement in the eastern part of the occupied West Bank.

Jewish Group Claims Murder of Jerusalem Arab

TA0107113194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 1 Jul 94

[Text] A makeshift explosive charge was discovered a short time ago at a bus stop near the settlement of Ginot Shomron and was safely dismantled by a Border Police sapper.

The organization calling itself David's Sword has assumed responsibility for the murder of an East Jerusalem resident whose body was discovered today at the fuel depot in the Jerusalem Forest. Approximately one hour ago, an anonymous caller phoned the Qol Yisra'el studios in Tel Aviv and told our correspondent Shim'on Vilna'i that the Arab was liquidated, as he put it, to avenge the murder of an Israeli in Tel Aviv's Shapira neighborhood by a collaborator. He added that his organization will continue such activity in the future.

Rabin War Remarks Triggered by Syrian Scud Test

TA0107091094 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 1 Jul 94 p A1

[Report by political correspondent Aluf Ben]

[Excerpt] It has been learned from Western sources that a few days before Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin issued his warning about Syria's military build-up and procurement of missiles, the Syrians tested the launch of a Scud missile. Rabin learned of the launch test, which apparently was the reason for his warning.

Rabin said last week that "Syria did not only receive Scud-C's from North Korea but also the ability to manufacture them. Today, Syria has ground-to-ground missiles in such quantities and of such quality that what we suffered at the hands of Iraq will be child's play in comparison." Rabin also warned that we should prepare for war with Syria if peace is not attained with it within two to three years.

As may be recalled, Syria tested the launch of a Scud-C in July 1992, and at that time, Rabin disclosed the fact while on a visit to the United States. [passage omitted]

Beilin on Christopher Visit; Time Short For Peace

TA0107062194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 1 Jul 94

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has said that in the negotiations between Syria and Israel, both parties have moved closer than expected toward peace. Deputy Foreign Minister Beilin is in Washington, where he met with State Department officials. Our correspondent in Washington Elimelekh Ram spoke with Deputy Foreign Minister Beilin:

[Begin recording] [Beilin] The present situation is as follows: We have never been closer to the chance of reaching peace with Syria. The Syrians are prepared for normalization, while we are ready to carry out a withdrawal on the Golan Heights. Both parties are also amenable to U.S. involvement. Nevertheless, if, for various reasons, this opportunity is not exploited, we may definitely find ourselves in another war with Syria within several years. Therefore, there is risk and opportunity here. The question is what will happen over the next few months. I do not believe that we have much

more than a few months in order to examine whether we can reach peace within the parameters we have set ourselves, which mainly pertain to security arrangements on the Golan Heights.

[Ram] What is the basis for these optimistic assessments from U.S. officials?

[Beilin] If one compares the conflicts currently on the international community's agenda with the Middle East conflict, which is gradually being resolved; if one looks at what has happened between the PLO and Israel; if one examines the negotiations between Jordan and Israel, which are about to resume in the region; if one follows the major developments which have taken place on the multilateral track, then one is forced is conclude that the Syrians will not permit themselves to remain isolated and that they will also make an effort to move toward peace. That is the reason for the optimism. Of course, this does not mean that peace will be achieved. Many more efforts by the Syrians and the Americans will be needed in order to reach peace. We will also have to exert great efforts, most of which we already have made. [end recording]

Economic Aid to Gaza Detailed

TA2906193794 Jerusalem Government Press Office in English 1835 GMT 29 Jun 94

["Facts and Figures on Israeli Economic Aid to Gaza" issued by the GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE Economics Desk on 29 June]

[Text] During the interim period between the signing of the autonomy accords on 4 May 1994 and the actual assumption of control by the Palestinian Authority (PA), Israel has adopted a number of measures, including the funding of day-to-day operations in Gaza and Jericho, to facilitate and support Palestinian success in implementing autonomy.

In mid-May, the Palestinian authorities turned to the Israeli Finance Ministry and the Civil Affairs Coordinating Committee of the Civil Administration requesting assistance in meeting the population's everyday needs. Being in its initial stages, the PA not only lacked an official governing council but it also had not created the organizations necessary for self-administration and day-to-day operations. Thus it was not prepared to assume the functions which had previously been conducted by the Civil Administration. As a result, the PA made an official request, in writing, to Israel for assistance. Israel reached an agreement with the PA, whereby Israel would fund the PA's activities for a short period of time. This arrangement is supposed to last only for the month of June, in the hope that by the end of the period, the PA will be ready to function independently.

The agreement completed around 18 May 1994, spelled out that Israel would cover the expenses associated with the supply of electricity and water, as well as certain medical expenses for the next month (June). In return, Israel was given a written guarantee by the PA stating it would refund all Israeli funds received for these expenses using VAT [value-added tax] and other customs duties currently being collected by Israel as security and collateral.

Day-to-Day Funding

Israel, via the Civil Administration, has budgeted $25 million to fund a month (June) of day-to-day operations and to pay for the use of electricity, water in Gaza, and for medical expenses by residents in Israeli hospitals. This is in addition to an aid package of $5 million annually for the next five years, for a total $25 million pledged by Israel as an international donor to the Autonomy region.

The aid is intended to cover the first month of operations in the case of electricity and water, and for three months for health assistance. In addition, Israel has provided a three-month supply of necessary medical drugs and other medical supplies to the Gaza health system.

Israel will provide coverage for NIS [new Israeli shekels] 10 million ($3 million) worth of electricity, in addition to the NIS 40 million ($13 million) Gaza debt the Civil Administration paid to the Israel Electric Corporation on 4 June 94. As well, the IEC has left in Gaza electricity infrastructure worth NIS 16 million; the PA has promised in writing that any future supplier of electricity to Gaza will pay fees to help cover the cost of this infrastructure. The PA is currently negotiating with a group of Canadian investors to provide electricity to Gaza.

Israel will pay $2 million during the month for Gaza's water. The Civil Administration has already paid off Gaza's debt of close to NIS 1.5 million to the national water company, Mekorot. According to Mekorot, approximately 2.5 million cubic meters of water are used annually by Gaza from the national water carrier. Most water used in Gaza comes from private wells.

In the medical field, $2 million worth of health care for the Gaza population needing specialized care in Israel is being paid for during the month by Israel. Following the end of the period, the PA will have to pay for medical care in Israel provided to Gaza residents out of its own resources. Medical supplies and drugs worth $5 million are being provided by Israel to the Gaza health system. This represents a three-month supply of medical supplies.

Other Expenses

While withdrawing from Gaza and Jericho, Israel continued paying salaries to the Palestinians employees of the Civil Administration. The Civil Administration paid approximately NIS 10 million, which represents a full month's salary, to 7,600 Palestinian employees. The workers received wages for the full month of May,

though because of the transfer of authority in Gaza they only worked for half of the month.

A total of NIS 20 million was paid to some 18,000 Palestinians for participating in public works projects during May. Civil Administration figures show that since 1 January 1994, the Civil Administration has paid NIS 70 million for public works projects in Gaza.

The Gaza Budget

The Civil Administration's Gaza District budget consists of two elements: a development budget and a recurrent costs budget. The development budget for 1993, the last year for which full figures are available, was NIS 167 million. This money was mostly used for development projects and split into four sub-sections. The original development budget for 1993 was NIS 25 million, while the sum of NIS 80 million was carried over from 1992's budget. In addition to these two items, NIS 22 million was transferred from the Coordinator's Fund for Development for use in cases of unexpected exceptional circumstances, such as in disaster situations.

Finally, an additional budget item of NIS 40 million was allocated for public works projects during the year. In Gaza, the Civil Administration's 1993 recurrent budget came to NIS 297 million. The majority of this budget consists primarily of taxes collected from the residents of Gaza. Of this, some NIS 232 million came from taxes collected from Gaza's population, of which some NIS 154 million went towards paying salaries for the Civil Administration's Gazan workers.

Items in the budget included NIS 59 million for education, NIS 58 million for health, NIS 12 million for welfare, NIS 5 million for interior, NIS 2 million for public works projects, and NIS 96 million for other items (including operation of all Israeli governmental offices in Gaza). An additional NIS 65 million for development expenditures, taken from the Gaza development budget's original development budget item and additional allocated budget item was added to the Civil Administration's recurrent expenses budget. This brought the total recurrent budget in Gaza to NIS 297 million. Of the additional NIS 65 million, some was used to fund public works projects while part was used for development projects like enlarging hospitals, the health system, and classrooms for schools.

PLO Budget Not Enough

According to comments made by the Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories, Maj.-Gen. Dani Rothschild, the PA budget for Gaza will have to be at least 3-4 times larger than that of the Civil Administration. This is due to the fact that the PA is responsible for establishing and paying the salaries of the Palestinian police and security forces. Above and beyond this, the PA will be setting up a new level of bureaucracy.

There is no question, said Rothschild, that the PA is facing a funding problem. This being the situation, he thought it may be a very good idea for the world community, mostly the donor nations, to force the PLO to sell a number of its assets and properties to make up for the deficit of running the Autonomy area. "It is somewhat unfair that the donor countries are going to pay from their taxpayers' money to the PLO, while the PLO still holds money...If the PLO has assets, and if the PLO has money, it is only fair that they will use the money for the wealth of the people in Gaza and Jericho," he said.

International Funding

In a meeting of the donor nations on 9-10 June 1994 in Paris, delegations pledged $42 million. These funds are specifically set aside to be used by the PA for short term funding. Before the early June conference, the donor nations had pledged $19 million for recurring and startup costs. The Jurgen Holst fund, named in memory of the Norwegian Foreign Minister who played an important role in the earlier Oslo Agreement, has a total of $2.4 billion in resources pledged to the Palestinians either in the form of financial pledges or guarantees. Israel, as noted earlier, is a donor nation whose total contribution to the PA is to be $25 million over five years.

Paper: Clinton Should Change Policy Not Team

TA2906122394 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 29 Jun 94 p 9

[Editorial: "A Shake-Up in the White House"]

[Text] Those U.S. presidents who succeeded in getting reelected to a second term of office over the past four decades have organized the White House under efficient chiefs of staff: Sherman Adams under Eisenhower; Bob Haldeman under Nixon; and James Baker under Reagan. This fact in itself did not save the reelected presidents from failures or decline during their second term, whether this was because of personal charges of corruption (Adams); the president himself committing a crime and implicating his aides (Nixon-Haldeman), or the replacement of the chief of staff (Baker). With the exception of Hamilton Jordan under President Carter, however, it is impossible to recall a chief of staff who lasted four years and failed to keep his boss in the White House.

The Jordan example did not deter Bill Clinton from appointing Mack McLarty as his chief of staff last year. Just as Jordan was a prominent member of the "Georgia mafia" which Carter brought with him from Atlanta, McLarty was brought by Clinton from Little Rock with the rest of the "Arkansas mafia." This seems to be a bad recipe for a governing team: an intimate team, long familiar with and protective of the president—McLarty and Clinton go back to the same kindergarten—does not tend to advance the real interests of the president. Fortunately for him, Reagan depended on his California team only partially, preferring to appoint James Baker,

aide to Reagan rivals Bush and Ford, as his chief of staff. Baker helped his friend George Bush, the next president, more as secretary of state than as White House chief of staff—a post he assumed once more toward the end of the election campaign two years ago.

A year and a half after entering the White House with fanfare, Clinton has lost most of his Arkansas team. His deputy legal counsel Foster committed suicide, Associate Attorney General Hubbell resigned, McLarty was shoved aside from the post of chief of staff to the powerless post of "adviser to the President." Together with other senior White House officials who were forced to resign—such as Bernard Nussbaum, President's legal counsel, and Bruce Lindsey, director of the President's Office of Personnel—or others who were reshuffled (such as Director of Communications George Stephanopoulos), Clinton's new appointments reflect the recurring shock waves of a new administration. In this context, we must also mention the frequent changeovers in the foreign affairs and defense teams, as typified by the disappearance of Secretary of Defense Les Aspin (as well as the Inman affair) and Deputy Secretary of State Clifton Wharton.

It is ridiculous to think that putting David Gergen in charge of foreign policy information under joint Clinton-Christopher supervision will solve the international problems with which the U.S. Administration is finding it difficult to cope. Clinton will do well to learn from past Israeli experience that it is not the information campaign that is at fault but rather the policy itself. The Gergen appointment indicates that Clinton still believes that foreign affairs are a marginal issue and that he should do nothing more for the time being (this means a period of about six months, until after the Congress elections, Thanksgiving, and Christmas). Christopher's turn to be dropped will yet come—and perhaps that of the National Security Council team as well—but Clinton's immediate challenge is to score domestic successes, especially in health care reform. This is why he needs a chief of staff well versed in the ways of Washington, such as former Congressman Leon Panetta, the budget director nominated by Clinton as the next White House chief of staff.

The significance of this reshuffle is that Clinton—fearing a defeat in the 1996 elections—is turning his attention to domestic issues without giving a second thought to old friends and without major foreign policy investments. This also applies to mediation on the Israeli-Syrian track. Even if Christopher suddenly gets active in this arena in a bid to save his skin, the chances of dragging the President himself into the Middle East fray are slim. The 1996 elections are at Clinton's doorstep, and he is now concentrating on this arena, for him the most significant of all.

'Arafat Adviser Welcomes Jordan-Israeli Progress

JN3006114994 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1100 GMT 30 Jun 94

[Text] A senior Palestinian official says any progress on the Jordanian-Israeli track will inevitably improve the situation on other Arab-Israeli tracks. He said that progress would also underline Arab rights to their lands and water.

Political adviser to the PLO chairman, Bassam Abu-Sharif, said moving forward on the Jordanian-Israeli unilateral [track] does not mean being engaged in a separate peace settlement. He told the Jordan News Agency that Jordan was committed to an agreement by Arab parties prior to the Madrid peace conference, which gave them the green light to hold unilateral peace negotiations with Israel.

Mr. Abu-Sharif said what is meant by a comprehensive agreement is an accord the Arab parties will arrive at with Israel later. He said this is a precondition for peace, stressing that peace will not prevail in the Middle East without progress on all tracks.

The Palestinian official said all Arab parties to the peace negotiations are jointly responsible for implementing world legitimacy resolutions and regaining Arab rights.

Prince Hasan Receives Iraq's Tariq 'Aziz

JN3006155994 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 30 Jun 94

[Text] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, has received at the Royal Hashemite Court Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz after his return from a trip to the Vatican, where he met with his holiness the pope and senior officials there. 'Aziz briefed his highness on the results of his talks with his holiness the pope. He pointed out his holiness' sympathy with the Iraqi people in the effort to lift the blockade imposed on them. His highness was also briefed on the results of Ekeus' visit [to Iraq]. 'Aziz stressed Iraq's commitment to the implementation of relevant UN Security Council resolutions and hoped that the blockade imposed on the Iraqi people would be lifted during the next meeting of the UN Security Council.

The meeting was attended by Muhammad al-Saqqaf, His Highness Prince Hasan's personal adviser, and the Iraqi ambassador in Amman.

Party Officials Confer With Iraqi Ba'th Delegation

JN3006150094 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1138 GMT 30 Jun 94

[Text] Amman, 30 Jun (INA)—An Iraqi Arab Socialist Ba'th Party delegation led by Iraq Command member 'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur has begun a series of bilateral meetings with the Jordanian political parties.

The delegation met with two Jordanian delegations, one from the Jordanian Socialist Democratic Party, led by Secretary General 'Isa Madanat, and the other from the Jordanian Democratic Progressive Party, led by Secretary General 'Ali 'Amir. During the two meetings, they discussed ways to enhance the militant relations and promote cooperation in order to serve the Arab nation and confront the imperialist, Zionist, and reactionary challenges.

'Abd-al-Ghafur stressed that Iraq's internal front is solid and that the Iraqi people are rallying around President Saddam Husayn's leadership in order to confront all forms of conspiracy and aggression and consolidate the legendary steadfastness against the unjust blockade. He also reviewed the democratic practices, the cohesive national unity, and the construction campaign in Iraq.

Madanat and 'Amir emphasized the need to pool the efforts and capabilities in order to lift the blockade on the steadfast Iraqi people. They reiterated their parties' solidarity with Iraq and its leader President Saddam Husayn, and lauded Iraq's steadfastness and march to reconstruct what was destroyed by the aggressors.

Madanat and 'Amir also stressed their determination to escalate activities on the Arab and international levels in order to lift the unjust blockade and confront the imperialist-Zionist scheme aimed to to obstruct the pan-Arab awakening whose pillars were established by Iraq. [passage indistinct]

Delegation Meets House, Senate Speakers

JN3006184994 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 30 Jun 94

[Text] At the Parliament today, an Iraqi Ba'th Party delegation visiting Jordan held two separate meetings with Senate President Ahmad al-Lawzi and House of Representatives Speaker Tahir al-Masri. More in the following report:

Senate President Ahmad al-Lawzi said that Jordan, which is a blessed fruit of the Great Arab Revolt, has never been away from its nation and its fair causes and unity. He said Jordan offered many sacrifices for the sake of this pan-Arab and principled stand. During a meeting with an Iraqi Arab Socialist Ba'th Party delegation under 'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur, member of the party's regional command, al-Lawzi said that Jordanians—leadership, parliament, and people—are aware of the injustice to which Iraq is being subjected and the Iraqi people's suffering as a result of the unjust embargo. He added that at all regional and international forums, Jordan has called for lifting the blockade in view of Iraq's implementation of all its obligations toward the UN Security Council. Al-Lawzi said: The brothers in Iraq are undoubtedly aware of the heavy price that Jordan has paid as a result of the Gulf crisis, be it directly through the blockade imposed on the Port of al-'Aqabah or indirectly through the national economy's losses as a result of the loss of such an important market as Iraq as

well as other traditional markets. He added that His Majesty King Husayn has raised the concerns of the Iraqi people and the Palestine question in all the countries that he visited in the speeches and discussions that he has held there. He added: I believe that Jordanian officials have never failed to raise the question of the blockade imposed on Iraq in any of their regional and international activities, always calling for lifting it and putting an end to the Iraqi people's tragedy. He indicated that the blockade issue requires joint and effective efforts on all levels.

For his part, 'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur highly appreciated the honorable stand of Jordan—king, government, parliament and people. He said that the Iraqi people will never forget Jordan's honorable stands on its nation's issues.

During the meeting, an expanded dialogue was held. Zayd al-Rifa'i, head of the Senate's Foreign Affairs Committee, as well as 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Hashimi and Sa'd Qasim Hammudi from the Iraqi delegation participated in the dialogue. The dialogue dealt with ways of establishing a new mode of dialogue with Arab and world political forces and making use of the positive development at the UN Security Council represented by the stands of China, France, and Russia on the blockade. The dialogue also dealt with ways of developing and boosting these stands, especially since the Iraqi government has received assurances that these stands will continue during the imminent UN Security Council's [sanctions] review sessions.

During his meeting with the Iraqi delegation, Tahir al-Masri, speaker of House of Representatives, discussed the current regional situation and developments which require unified Arab ranks. He stressed the importance of joint Arab efforts to address changes and face up to foreign challenges.

During the meeting, a dialogue was held. A number of deputies and the Iraqi party delegation took part in the dialogue, which dealt with world political changes, the shift in the stands of some UN Security Council member states, and the role of the many representatives of investors and companies currently visiting Iraq should play to lobby their governments into developing their stands on Iraq. The dialogue also dealt with the importance of activating dialogue between Iraq and regional states in order to remove the doubts surrounding its relations with them.

Radio Says Israeli Intimidation 'Ineffective'

JN3006172594 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 30 Jun 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] A careful reading of the Israeli policy shows that the use of force is a constant tactic used by Israeli politicians to achieve their aims. This logic has been associated with Israel for so long that Arab citizens have become deeply convinced that Israel commits aggression to achieve its objectives and because its relationship with aggression seems inseparable and difficult to give up.

We are not in the business of documenting the Israeli aggressions since the establishment of Israel. However, we will pause at the most recent example in this regard and ask: What is Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin aiming at through his statements? The first impression these statements leave is that they are meant to prepare the region for a fresh war. What does Rabin mean by saying that war with Syria is possible if peace does not move ahead within the next three years? Why did Rabin chose this time in particular? Rabin knows that with Syria, which is in a better position to understand changes and to digest the lessons of history, intimidation is ineffective. This has been proved by its policy, which has been genuinely, efficiently, and bravely represented by President Hafiz al-Asad through the past quarter of a century. Israel knows that Syria cannot be intimidated. However, a deep reading between the lines and a glance at the reckless behavior of the Israeli artillery and planes in defenseless southern Lebanon, whose only weapon is steadfastness and resistance, show that Rabin is trying to confront Arab weakness with the arrogance of Israeli power. Moreover, he wants to say that the weak Arab reality, fragmented by sedition, wars, and defeats, does not permit the Arabs, within the equation of powers, to restore their rights in full. He also wants to say that Israel's long arm is ready. Whom is Rabin trying to fool? Syria has not joined the peace process because of weakness. It did not enter negotiations to accept any peace. Rather, Syria has joined the peace process on a clear and explicit foundation: land for peace on the basis of UN Security Council resolutions, especially Resolutions 242 and 338, which have been endorsed by the U.S. initiative as a basis for the negotiations which started in Washington and continued in Washington. Afterward, behind the back of international legitimacy and the back of the essence of peace itself, Israel reached a separate deal in Oslo to undermine the idea of a comprehensive solution and abort the effort to achieve a comprehensive peace. Does Rabin want to try his strength against Syria, supported by the deals that he achieved? The point here is that Rabin is exploiting the weakness of the Arabs to threaten them and brandish cards which he believes have become guaranteed. However, Syria is a different question. Rabin knows that well. If Israel has achieved a penetration in Oslo or elsewhere, it knows that any peace that is not approved by Syria is only a pact of capitulation or grounds for new repercussions. The Israeli leaders know how dangerous they can be for regional and world security.

We do not claim that the Arab situation is in its best shape. We do not need Rabin to remind us of the Arab state of affairs, which he is exploiting to reach separate deals. Syria is strong with its people and national unity and with the rallying of the Arab nations's masses around the just, honorable peace that President al-Asad has proposed. It is Syria which makes the peace of the Arabs. Rabin is well aware of that fact. Syria wishes that none of the arrows in the Arab quiver be lost, no matter how fragile it may appear. Syria tirelessly works toward that end. At the same time, Syria has tirelessly worked to be the arrow that is never broken, irrespective of the challenges.

From the outset, Syria has adhered to justice and international legitimacy. It has negotiated in broad daylight to help the region and the world arrive at a peace in broad daylight. This is because the peace of the dark does not emerge into the light. Events in Gaza and Jericho need not be explained. Irrespective of threats, Syria eventually knows that its peace is the peace of truth and justice, the peace of the future, and the future of the brave. Such peace paves the way for the future of people in this region and the world.

Afghanistan

Rabbani Delivers Address on Current Situation

LD3006160194 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1630 GMT 29 Jun 94

[Speech by President Borhanoddin Rabbani on the country's "current situation" on 29 June; place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Muslim and gallant nation of Afghanistan, brave compatriots, brothers and sisters, peace and blessings of God be upon you. Gratitude and indebtedness to the God who bestowed upon the faithful and gallant Afghan nation the vision and ability to safeguard with fortitude, merit, and Islamic and national unity and solidarity its country's great heritage, independence, sovereignty, and unity in the most complicated and difficult moments of its contemporary life, while forces of sedition and corruption cunningly strive with all their capabilities to disrupt the normal life of the people and to cause insecurity. It is appropriate to thank the myth-making nation of Afghanistan, proud Afghanistan. Otherwise seditious forces, who have no goal but troublemaking and the elimination of the people's morale and material life and society, should have put this land of free people and the birthplace of the myth-making gallant men on the verge of complete collapse and defeat. Dear compatriots, more than two years have passed since the establishment of the Islamic regime in the country, a regime that came into being in the country through the blood of one and half million martyrs and a similar number of maimed and disabled people after 14 years of heroic and myth-making jihad. It was the universal expectation of the people that, with the establishment of Islamic sovereignty, the epoch of pains, hardship, deprivation, and suffering would end and people would live under the lofty flag of Islam in certainty and security and without any kind of threat or worry. With great regret those who have been afraid of the existence of a powerful and united Afghanistan in the heart of Asia tried to prevent the ever-increasing stability and consolidation of the Islamic regime so that Islamic, free, and proud Afghanistan, which has emerged as a infidel-fighting and enemy-crushing force, cannot easily take steps towards progress, stability, and strength.

Our gallant nation's great victory over the aggressor power, which was considered by the people of the world invincible and whose name was epoch-making, will permanently be registered with bold letters in the history of our country, the region, and the world. A small nation, but decisive and strong-willed and faithful, achieved alone what the world considered impossible. Although our nation suffered great loss of life and material damages along this path, it provided millions of humans the opportunity to live free and to act independently. It felled the demon of communism, destroyed the base of atheism, and turned confrontation between the superpowers into cooperation and understanding. The epoch of cold war ended and a new time of coexistence and cooperation started in the field of international relations.

As a result of those great events, which is the product of the Afghan people's renaissance, our country became the focus of the attention of all countries. Afghanistan and mojahedin became symbols of gallantry, resistance, and invincibility in the world. While the world was watching Afghanistan with appreciation and fascination, some factors came about, and conspiracies were hatched to prevent Afghan unity and the further strengthening of our mojahed and muslim nation. The sources and capabilities, which should have been used for the repair of damages caused by the war, were use for causing further destruction and killing. Instead of understanding and coordination among forces and their mobilization for speeding the country's revival and reconstruction, ambitious divisions and conflicts started. The firing of rockets and all kinds of heavy weapons into Kabul, the blocking of communication roads to prevent the arrival of primary goods, and the cutting of electricity were acts whose catastrophic and painful effects Kabul residents suffered during this time. Instead of commiseration with the people and trying to reduce their pains, they caused fresh suffering. Thousands of Kabul residents and other parts of the country were martyred as a result of those sinister and criminal acts, tens of thousands of others were injured and disabled, and hundreds of thousands of others were obliged to leave their homes.

As a result of those events, Kabul was ruined by rockets. Schools, which should have been centers for nurturing the country's children and youths, were turned into ruins or bases for displaced people from the war-hit areas. Health and public services installations, which had already been damaged, were so badly destroyed by rockets that sufficient time and capital will be needed for their revival and reconstruction. The people of the world, who considered our Muslim and mojahed nation a symbol of pride, heroism, and myth-making, changed their view about Afghanistan and its heroic people because of the continuation of the futile war and rocket attacks of selfish and ambitious groups.

Gallant and brave compatriots, during the past two years' incidents, warmonger elements and those groups that cause insecurity have been identified. From the very first days when negotiations and contacts for the formation of the Islamic state had started with the participation of all esteemed jihadi leaders and when the formation of a state with the participation of all jihadi forces and organizations was agreed upon, Hekmatyar, without paying attention to the negotiations of the leaders and without taking into consideration the concluded agreements, first gave an ultimatum about the surrender of the Kabul regime forces and then attacked Kabul. It was that attack by Hekmatyar that started insecurity in the city and the looting of private and state property. That attack was repulsed in three days by jihadi forces and the freshly established Islamic army. Similarly, following that Hekmatyar commenced hostility to esteemed Hazrat Mojadedi right from the first month of his accession. Following that the existence of the militia was made an excuse and so on.

In each instance when the excuse was removed, Hekmatyar did not stop his opposition. He kept making other excuses.

If we follow the line of opposition by Hekmatyar's group during the years of jihad, it will be become clear that this group's fighting and armed clashes with other jihadi parties number many times more the clashes with Russian forces.

Dear compatriots: The Islamic State of Afghanistan, which was established with the intention of earnest service for the persecuted people, fully believes that every government and political system gets its legitimacy from the people alone. [passage omitted]

The coup was defeated at the early hours. Besides proving the state's strength, the coup also prevented the change of an Islamic system into a non-Muslim system. The state's control of Afghanistan's northern regions and full control of regions on both sides of Salang has foiled the anti-national and anti-Islamic imaginations by the groups dependent to foreign circles regarding Afghanistan's disintegration. The courage of the Islamic state's army once again revealed that this land's brave sons can discharge properly their duties and historic mission vis-a-vis the history and people as did their ancestors and forefathers, who kept and safeguarded with courage the country's national unity, territorial integrity, and independence.

The recent success of the Islamic state's forces and the complete seizure of the historic fort Balahisar-Tapa-e Maranjan and several other strong militia positions once again proved the state's righteousness and strength. [passage omitted]

I congratulate all the people of Afghanistan, the brave and devout mojahedin and the powerful and courageous Islamic army on this glorious victory. As control of Balahisar had an important and decisive role in Afghanistan's past administration, the seizure of Balahisar and other strategic militia positions today is a starting point for another new stage in the peaceful life of our compatriots, in particular the noble people of Kabul.

It will be a stage free of fighting, and peace will be consolidated and strengthened. At this new stage, the warmonger elements must know that fighting is not a way for solving difficulties. All differences and misunderstandings must be resolved by talks and discussion. With such a spirit and feelings, once again I call on those groups and elements who are still embarking on fighting and military clashes to cooperate on the restoration of peace for their persecuted people, keeping in mind that achieving victory by fighting and (?using force is not a way for success). We are ready to extend every necessary cooperation in this regard.

Dear compatriots, according to agreements reached, an elected delegates council from all over the country must be set up for electing the country's national leader. The Islamic state has been saying that the convocation of such a Shura can end the current difficulties and problems, because the people have the right to decide about the issues relevant to the society and to choose the national leadership. Unfortunately, despite all the readiness shown by the Islamic state, elements and forces by various means have created obstacles on the path of the convocation and setting up of a such a grand Shura consisting of delegates from the whole country. These forces and elements seek their interest in the continuation of fighting and disorder.

We believe that a grand Islamic Shura or Loya Jerga should be held as soon as possible. People must decide on country's future and leadership. We declare this point decisively and openly that the people's wish and determination will be completely respected and honored. As I have been saying, once again I emphasize that the state is ready to accept and implement any particular mechanism acceptable to all sides for the purpose of creating confidence for a free atmosphere and to prevent every kind of ill influence concerning the election of the Shura's delegates and its system of work. We are waiting and will be waiting for the views and actual [word indistinct] acceptable to other forces. Even the United Nations and the foreign ministers of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] can supervise the work of this Shura by financing its convocation.

[Passage omitted] Dear compatriots, in consideration of the country's sensitive situation and urgent needs to which immediate attention must be paid I declare the following:

A grand Islamic Shura, representing the will of the Muslim nation must make a decision regarding our country's fate. Throughout history and in the contemporary period of Jehad, at the time of provisional government and after our victory, the nation's decisions have played in the formation of the Islamic State through the Hal-wa Aqd Shura, which demonstrates our Islamic and national tradition.

Now that our country is free, every important decision must be made by the nation with the participation of epic-making individuals. The period of decision-making by a handful of people has now ended and there is no longer any rational ground or practical reason for it. I am ready to hand over power to whomever is chosen by a gathering of the country's ulema, dear commanders, esteemed leaders of the formations and intellectuals [passage omitted]

Here, once again a grand gathering is about to be convened in the historic city of Herat, to be attended by famous commanders, governors, and formations' leaders or their representatives. I am calling on all those participating in this gathering to decide urgently on the convocation of this grand Shura. Personally, I will not nominate myself for the transitional period.

With utmost desire and respect for the treaty signed in Holy Mecca, despite the fact that the opposition side did not honor this treaty even for one day and despite the fact that members of the Resolution and Settlement Council [Hal Wa 'Aqd Shura] rendered a decision for a two-year term of office for the State Presidency and are insisting on the completion of this term, I am prepared to hand over power to whomever the participants of the Shura choose..

God willing, I will take part in this Shura. I am hoping this gathering starts work soon and the esteemed leaders of the formations take part in this Shura. Simultaneously with the handover of power based on the decision of this session, the Shura will decide about the convocation of a grand Shura. We should hold each others' hands for the formation of an

elected government that will represent the will of the people and thus end the fighting and destruction in the country. Beloved Afghanistan should no longer see the killing of its sons or further destruction of the country and homelessness of its people.

In order to achieve a nationwide cease-fire, I am taking the first step by announcing a cease-fire in Kabul city starting from 8 Saratan [29 June]. I hope the opposite side takes pity on their persecuted nation, the oppressed people of Kabul, the orphaned children and martyrs' families, and thus refrains from launching rockets, shooting mortars, and firing guns on the oppressed people.

Dear compatriots, I hope the new stage we are going to begin now is a stage bringing peace and security to our people and country. I ask the Almighty God to end forever the fighting and hostility in this land so that the people of Afghanistan can live free and proud in peace, fraternity, and sincerity with unity and cooperation. What an honor it would be to wipe away the tears from the face of an orphan or look after the family of a martyr or build a destroyed house or a cracked wall in our country instead of useless conflicts for the sake of power. What an honor it would be to cooperate with each other for the deepening of the eternal values and lofty teachings of Islam in our Islamic society.

Rabbani Holds News Conference

LD3006222394 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1530 GMT 30 Jun 94

[Text] At a news conference held (?today) the president of Afghanistan expressed his readiness to transfer power.

The correspondent of the BIA reports that at this news conference Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of Afghanistan, called on the Jehadi leaders to come inside the country and together with their people take part in electing a [word indistinct]. He said we should make maximum use of the Herat Shura which is now holding its preparatory meetings for the restoration of peace and security in the country; the nation's delegates must make their decision in this respect. If someone from among the Jehadi leaders is not willing to take part in the Herat Shura, the people should not wait for him, because no one has the right of veto.

The president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, whose term of office has come to an end on the basis of Jalalabad Accord and the Treaty of Mecca, said: Golboddin Hekmatyar has been claiming the Islamic State of Afghanistan is insisting on remaining in power while we are now insisting on the transfer of power. The Jehadi leaders must soon come inside the country and join the people so the basis of authority and responsibility can be set up.

In reply to a question concerning his view regarding Mawlawi Khalis, who has nominated himself for the post of president, Rabbani said: Like any other Afghan, Mowlawi Khalis has the right to nominate himself for the post of president. Although I have much respect for him, the people's delegates must decide on his election for the post.

Regarding the recognition of the Dostam militia as a political party, Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani said: Our view regarding the Dostam militia has not changed. However, this issue can be raised at the Herat Shura so the people's delegates express their views in this respect.

In reply to a question concerning the interest of some foreign countries in Afghanistan issue, Rabbani said: Other countries should not interfere in the internal affairs of Afghanistan. [words indistinct]

Fighting Continues Despite Cease-Fire Call

Militia Headquarters Destroyed

LD3006185594 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 30 Jun 94

[Text] A military headquarters of Karmal-Golboddin-Dostam militia in Benihisar was destroyed by heavy weapon fire of the Islamic State's army. According to the Bakhtar Information Agency, dozens of militiamen were killed and 15 enemy artillery were eliminated. A source of the armed forces reported that during the past 24 hours the air force of the Islamic State bombed [word indistinct] Sheberghan airfields [words indistinct] During this period the (?positions of militia in Charasiab) were attacked by the air force. As a result, two militia tanks were set on fire and seven men were killed. [words indistinct] As a result of the missile attack on residential areas, 16 citizens of Kabul were martyred and over 100 were injured and 16 houses were damaged. [words indistinct]

Opposition Rejects Cease-Fire

LD3006173994 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 30 Jun 94

[Text] The High Coordinating Council opposing the Kabul government rejected a proposal made by the president of Afghanistan, Borhanoddin Rabbani, to establish a temporary cease-fire and form a leadership council.

Rabbani's proposal was broadcast on the Kabul radio last night. The spokesman of the council said in Peshawar that the establishment of a temporary cease-fire has no effect in the resolution of the crisis until a fundamental solution has been found for the resolution of the Afghan problem. The spokesman added: A meeting will be held in Jalalabad soon—with the participation of military commanders, scholars, and leaders of Afghan jehadi parties—to decide on the political future of the country.

Government, Opposition Clash

LD3006172494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 30 Jun 94

[Text] Despite the announcement of a unilateral cease-fire by Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani, limited exchange of missiles and rockets continued today between the warring sides.

According to a report from Kabul, at noon today, Rabbani's forces used war planes targeting the easternmost sector of the Maranjan hill, which is still controlled by the Hekmatyar-Dostam coalition forces. Also, Rabbani's forces stationed in the westernmost sector of the hill and equipped with tanks came under heavy artillery shells of the opposition forces.

Foreign Ministry Rejects Pakistani Statement

LD2906211394 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 29 Jun 94

[Statement issued by the Foreign Ministry of the Islamic State of Afghanistan; place and date not given]

[Text] In the name of Almighty God. Quoting esteemed Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, minister of foreign affairs of Pakistan, most of the mass media reported a statement alleging that the legitimacy of the esteemed Ustad Rabbani's presidency would come to an end and there would be a power vacuum in Afghanistan after 28 June. The Foreign Ministry of the Islamic State of Afghanistan looks with doubt at such reports. However, if such a statement has really been made, then the Afghan ministry expresses their profound regret and sadness.

The Muslim people of Afghanistan and the Islamic State of Afghanistan were expecting the Islamic Republic of Pakistan (which signed the Islamabad and Jalalabad accords) to condemn strongly the coup against the Islamic state by Hekmatyar, who actually rejected the above accords; and Pakistan should have taken the necessary actions for the implementation of the accords. With regret, it is said at this time, such a position may damage the neutral position of Afghanistan's friends and this may put a negative effect on their mediation role. The people of Kabul, who are now celebrating the dislodging of the war-mongering forces from the surroundings of Kabul city and congratulating their Islamic state on this glorious victory, are surprised why a foreign minister of a friendly country is questioning the legitimacy of an Islamic state's president. Undoubtedly, such a point of view will only benefit the enemies of friendship between Afghanistan and Pakistan. The Muslim people of Afghanistan regard such an (?utterance) as a hostile stance against themselves and interference in their internal affairs and a blow by the enemies to the two countries.

Herat Delegates Echo Denunciation

LD3006203094 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 30 Jun 94

[Text] The preparatory sessions of the provinces' delegates Shura were held today and yesterday in Herat city. The correspondent of the BIA reported that at today's session of this Shura, chaired by esteemed General Mohammad Ismail Khan, general amir of the Southwestern Zone and governor of Herat, the participants regarded the recent statement by the minister of foreign affairs of Pakistan as open interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan and they have denounced it. [passage indistinct]

Bangladesh

Islamic Group Threatens U.S. Embassy 'Siege'

BK0107075494 Hong Kong AFP in English 0739 GMT 1 Jul 94

[Text] Dhaka, July 1 (AFP)—A Bangladeshi Islamic fundamentalist group Friday [1 July] threatened to lay siege to the US embassy in Dhaka after accusing Washington of hurting Moslem sensibilities by supporting feminist writer Taslima Nasreen.

Nasreen has been accused of blaspheming Islam and while Washington said it took "no position" on her writings and respected all faiths it was "disturbed" by repeated calls for violence against her, including death calls. "As President Bill Clinton has made it clear, the United States stands firmly against the forces of intolerance," said a Voice of America editorial seen as reflecting Washington's views and quoted here.

Western diplomats in Dhaka have also met to express concern about rising fundamentalism in Bangladesh and are reported to have urged the government to take action against extremists.

Moulana Sadeq Ahmed Siddiqui, head of the fundamentalist Tahhafuze Harmine group, said he was saddened by America's comments and hoped Clinton would not interfere in Bangladesh's religious affairs.

"The government's dilly-dallying about arresting Nasreem has links with the US comments, and if need be we will lay siege to the American embassy," he said in a statement carried by the daily JANAKANTHA newspaper. The fundamentalists want Nasreen punished, the incorporation of a blasphemy law in the constitution and a ban on several dailies they consider "anti-Islamic."

The 32-year-old writer, who has denied blaspheming Islam's holy book, the Koran, has been in hiding since a court last month issued an arrest warrant against her for "outraging" Moslem feelings. Two radical groups have put a 3,750 US dollars bounty on her head.

Bangladesh's News and Feature Service reported that Dhaka-based diplomats met Thursday and expressed concern over rising fundamentalism in the country. It said the US embassy had convened the meeting which was attended by diplomats from Britain, France, Canada, Italy, Australia and Japan. The envoys urged the Dhaka government to take steps against extremist forces. Although the report could not be immediately confirmed one western diplomat said the envoys had expressed concern about the situation

in talks with Bangladeshi Foreign Minister Mustafizur Rahman.

Bangladesh meanwhile assessed the damage Friday from the nationwide general strike Thursday called by fundamentalists as part of their campaign against Nasreen. At least one person was killed and up to 300 injured, according to media reports. Home (Interior) Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury regretted the death of the activist and told parliament an investigation was underway. Police said the victim, aged 16, and believed to be a fundamentalist, was killed in a gun battle with police in eastern Kishoreganj district. Five others were injured.

Thursday's stoppage was the first strike called by fundamentalist groups on religious grounds since this South Asian nation became independent in 1971. It prompted counter action by many other groups, including the main opposition Awami League, protesting both the strike and fundamentalism.

Meanwhile, Norway on Thursday expressed concern over the fate of Nasreen, through its visiting Foreign Ministry's charge d'affaires Oddvar Laegereid. Nasreen, who is said to be seeking asylum in the United States, has been invited to attend a symposium on freedom of expression scheduled to start September 21 in the Norwegian town of Stanger.